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TO OUR READERS:

In compliance with the Israeli military authorities, and under the guise of the much criticized "Emergency Regulations" of 1945, Al-Fajr is required to submit all material prepared for publication in this weekly, and also in the Arabic Daily and Bi-Weekly Hebrew Edition, to the Israeli censorship authorities, who use this blanket authority excessively. The material appearing on pages labeled with letters has all been censored and expunged by the Israeli authorities. We found it necessary and relevant to publish it on these pages in the foreign edition.

Arafat-Hussein Talks Start in Amman

PLO Excutive Committee Chairperson Yasir Arafat finally arrived in Amman February 26 for talks with King Hussein of Jordan and other officials. The meeting, which had been heralded for weeks, followed a series of high-level meetings of PLO officials in Tunis. Observers in Jordan and in the occupied territories viewed the meeting with cautious restraint. The Arabic nationalist dailies opined that Palestine National Council resolutions should be the basis of any agreements made with Jordan.

Jordan has been attempting to pressure the Palestinian leader to mandate the Hashemite monarch to enter negotiations with Israel based on the September, 1, 1982 Reagan plan, which the PLO completely rejects. Recent Jordanian moves have included restricting the travel of West Bankers, restricting import of agricultural products, forcing West Bankers who reside in Jordan to return to the West Bank and reconvening the Jordanian parliament, which includes 30 so-called West Bank representatives.

Very little information has been released on the Palestinian-Jordanian meetings. PLO officials close to Arafat have insisted that the Palestinian side will base its talks on PNC resolutions and the Fez plan while many observers expect Jordan to push for the Reagan plan, which virtually cedes the West Bank to the Jordanian regime in the form of a confederation. Other items to be discussed include Jordanian restrictions an travel and transfer of goods on the bridges linking the West Bank to Jordan and coordinating the strategy of funding in the occupied territories.

A two-point statement of support signed by nationalist leaders in the occupied territories was sent to Arafat this week reconfirming the PLO as sole legitimate representative and criticising Hussein's reconvening of the Jordanian parliament, which has been widely interpreted as a rejection of the Rabat 1974 Summit decision recognising the PLO as the sole spokesperson for the Palestinian people. According to *Agence France Presse*, the statement was signed by Mayors Bassam Shaka'a, Hilmi Hanoun and Wahid Hamdalla and other politicians, academic unions and national institutions representing a wide spectrum of opinion in the West Bank. The apparent intention is to counter the local pro-Jordanian push, spearheaded by Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij.

A delegation of staunch pro-Jordanian Palestinian figures left for Amman February 27, observers say, to pressure Arafat to be conciliatory towards the king. Freij, who headed the delegation, drew heavy criticism from Palestinian nationalists when he told Israel TV February 26 that he intends to "tell Arafat that the only way to solve the problem with Israel is through mutual recognition." Others known to be on the delegation are Hikmat al-Masri, chairperson of the board of Najah University and a member in the Jordanian parliament, Anwar Khatib, the Jordanian district commissioner of Jerusalem, and Mahmoud Abu Zuluf, editor of *Al Quds*, a pro-Jordanian Arabic daily based in Jerusalem.

ISRAEL USES VACUUM BOMBS ON SHOUF

Israel uses the devastating vacuum bomb once again in Lebanon, Livia Rokach reports:

In its daily air raids on Druze villages and towns in the Shouf mountains through the past week — raids which took a high toll in civilian casualties — the Israeli airforce has used, according to the Beirut press, implosion (vacuum) bombs of the kind used against residential areas in Beirut in summer 1982.

In particular on Friday, *Al Safir* published a report on the use of an implosion bomb by Israeli Phantoms which bombed Bhamdoun on Thursday, February 23.

The implosion bomb, which unleashes a chemical process that creates an air void in a determined space, pulverises and pastes together a high-rise building with everything it contains, including humans. It is a highly sophisticated anti-personnel weapon. Experts in Beirut view the use of such bombs in the attacks on the Shouf mountains as ulterior, factual proof that the Israeli raids have no other goal than to prop up the morale of the floundered Phalangist power in east Beirut and disseminate utmost terror among the populations of the liberated areas.

European diplomats and military experts in Beirut also reject as completely fallacious official Israeli statements claiming that the air raids are directed against 'Palestinian command posts' in resistance-controlled areas. Such statements are interpreted as purely propagandistic and intended in the first place to allay the more than justified fears and contain the reactions of the Druze population inside Israel. The sources are unanimous, moreover, that in contrast with these statements, the resistance to the occupation in south Lebanon is indigenous and autonomous, rooted in the deep hostility of the occupied populations toward the occupation, and not at all piloted from phantomatic 'commands' in the mountains. The daily air raids through the week hit Bhamdoun, Hammana, Mansuriyah, Rueissat, Btater, Baal Shmay and the Beirut-Damascus road, especially in the eastern Beqa'a-Mar Elias area. Each raid was carried out by mixed formations of 12 Phantom bombers and Kfir or F-16 hunter bombers in several subsequent waves intended to obstruct rescue operations and spread casualties among the rescuers.

School Grounds Seized For Bus Station Relocation

A six-dunum land plot in Wadi Tufah, Hebron, currently used as a school playground, has been confiscated by Israeli authorities as the site for a new Hebron bus station. The old Hebron district bus station in the city centre was confiscated for 'military purposes' by settlers and army last summer. Mapam party's Hebrew *Al Hamishmar* reported: "Israeli authorities claim the land is 'unused'."

The confiscated land is owned by the Nasr al-Din family but is presently under the auspices of the Israeli-run Hebron education department which has designated it as a football field for Amir Muhammed Preparatory School. The education department has rented the playground for a JD95 annual fee but since 1974, the Palestinian landowners refused to accept the rent money and have demanded that their land be returned. Kassem Nasr al-Din, one of the owners, told *Al Fajr* that his lawyer made a formal objection to the land grab two weeks ago. He said that he has all the necessary documents proving his ownership of the land.

Mohammed Rashid Ja'abari, the Israeli-appointed director of education, investigated the confiscation order. He was notified by the Israeli education liaison officer that there is no official statement regarding the status of the school playground. Ja'abari said it was not "useful" for him to object to a land expropriation decision. "The education department is a (military) government institution," Ja'abari added. "Personally, I cannot object to the decision," he said. More than 500 students and the members of two Hebron sports clubs use the playground daily. Only a three-metre road separates the eastern side of the school from the football field. A schoolteacher who refused to report his name told *Al Fajr* that the establishment of a bus station so close to the school is a health hazard and makes school work next to impossible.

According to *Al Hamishmar*, houses are to be built for settlers in Hebron's centre and authorities already disclosed intentions to confiscate the old market of Hebron, arsoned by settlers last summer, but no procedure for the takeover has been made yet.

Arab owners and the former municipality filed a complaint last year in Israeli High Court demanding that the bus station be reopened. But Zamir Shemesh, the Israeli-appointed mayor, dropped the municipality's complaint when he replaced the elected municipality.

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Sixth Fleet Bombard Nationalist Lebanon

by Livia Rokach
Our Rome Correspondent

February 27 — Less than ten minutes after the last Marine of the US contingent of the defunct multinational forces was evacuated on board the Sixth Fleet, 1:00 pm, February 26, the American empire, in an insane show of its arrogance of power, reminiscent of the 'Mayaguez' affair at the end of the Vietnam war, flooded the Lebanese Shouf and Metn mountains with naval shell fire which once more hit civilian populations in villages and towns and transformed living landscapes into a moon-faced desert.

The shelling by the US battleship *New Jersey* and two other US destroyers stationed in front of Beirut and by the destroyer *Caron*, stationed in front of the Dbayeh port, north of the capital, lasted over one hour at one shell per second. The more than 150 one ton and half-ton shells fired from the 406 mm. and 127 mm. guns hit mountain areas 30 kilometres inside Lebanese territory around the resistance positions of Fallugha, Hammana and Ras al-Metn — a territory already bombed again and again in past weeks by the US navy and US and Israeli airforces with no appreciable influence on the military balance of power. It is estimated that at least 150 shells were fired by the US warships in yesterday's attack. Earlier, during the night at 9:00 pm and 11:30 pm on Saturday, the US fleet shelled the Druze-inhabited Shouf mountains with over 90 shells from both its 406 mm. and 127 mm. guns.

In Beirut, the earth trembled and thousands of citizens who were crowded on the beaches or taking a walk in town on the sunny Sunday panicked as the huge fire balls passed over their heads with deafening roars. An intense artillery barrage from east Beirut hit the Hamra area in the western sector, landing rockets on two residential buildings, one in front of a Catholic church at that moment overcrowded with mainly African and Asian immigrant workers and another on the Colisee Cinema, where the afternoon show was about to begin.

Shortly before, at Khalde, the combat units of the unified Lebanese resistance command on jeeps and trucks flying Amal and PSP flags and on tanks and troop carriers transporting soldiers and officers of the 6th Brigade, commanded by Shi'ite Colonel Lutfi Jaber, which joined the patriotic forces on February 6, took possession of the abandoned US Marines base, its fortifications, foxholes, trenches, bunkers, coastal positions and of the airport itself with all its installations. By 12:45 pm, as the last US Marine amphibious troop carrier splashed away from the Quzai beach towards the Sixth Fleet warships, Amal's green flag was flying from the base's watchtower, replacing the Stars and Stripes which had resisted there for barely 17 months and was taken down unceremoniously that morning. The 200 men of the 'Colt' company, the last to leave the once 1600-Marine base which in past weeks hosted no more than 600, also turned over to the national forces considerable arms and ammunition deposits, according to the agreement reached last week between Amal leader Nabih Berri and US Ambassador to Beirut Reginald Bartholomew.

The terms of this agreement, whereby to save America's battered face the airport was to be consigned to 'the Lebanese army' — the 6th Brigade — and a ceasefire in Beirut was to facilitate the evacuation without incidents of the US ground forces, were scrupulously observed and respected by the patriotic forces. In doing so, the Lebanese combatants have undoubtedly demonstrated a high degree of self-control. Many would have preferred to see the Marines leave in worse condition than they were allowed to, after 17 months of the US "peace force" gunning down and bombing civilian populations and resistance strongholds. The infernal naval shellings with which America has repayed this magnanimous discipline have therefore come as a dismaying surprise to most Lebanese.

Not to political observers, however. To start with, European eyewitnesses of the US Marines evacuation, already alarmed by the American-orchestrated campaign in the media regarding the low morale of the evacuating troops, were expecting some act of US treachery when they saw the Marines "make strange 'V's — for victory — signs as they embarked for withdrawal on the amphibious carriers." The evacuees were evidently informed — consoled? — in advance that the definite failure of their mission would be "compensated" by a massive annihilation of Lebanese lives — one more illustration of American morality.

Second, American spokespeople were quick to leak out an interpretation of the shellings as a "proof" that despite the total failure of the MNF, the US "has not evacuated but merely redeployed," or in other words that the Reagan administration intends to further condition, through the use of military force, any solution of the question of Lebanon. The general comment in Lebanon, as well as in many European circles, is, however, that once more the Reagan administration is excercising its wishful thinking in a way completely divorced from realities: "Experience has shown that if the US bombings have in the past contributed to bring down Gemayel and, along with that, to liquidate Reagan's hopes, today such shellings are even less capable of reversing the military and political defeat of Gemayel and the Phalange or granting them the fulfillment of the promises made to them by the US president and administration."

At least on the military level, such forecasts are already coming true. In fact, the US shellings do not seem to have minimally affected the level of the fighting which has resumed as of Sunday afternoon and throughout the night and today, both along the green line in Beirut and around Souk al-Gharb. On the political level, the massive Saudi effort to impose on the Lebanese national resistance.

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SOUTH PROTESTS AGAINST OCCUPATION THE LEBANESE WAY

At least 10 serious military operations were carried out in south Lebanon by resistance fighters last week using rockets, automatic rifles, grenades and Katyushas. There were conflicting reports of casualties. According to radio reports from Lebanon, 10 Israeli soldiers were killed or injured in the operations with reliable sources claiming that five corpses could be observed after an attack in Sidon on February 24. Israeli military spokespersons admitted the death of one soldier and the injury of four.

National resistance fighters rocketed the military governorate in Sidon on February 27. Israeli forces immediately opened fire in all directions and spread out over the area. Thirty people were arrested. An Israeli vehicle travelling near Ghazieh village was hit by shells and grenades. *Agence France Press* reported that four soldiers were killed or injured during the clash. A military Phalangist base was attacked and two Israeli tanks backed Phalangists. Results of the attack were not reported.

Israeli Radio reported February 26 that a Katyusha shell hit a military target in Jouiya village, east of Tyre, but that there were no injuries. Three other military operations were carried out near Hasbaya, Jiya and along the Litani river.

A grenade was thrown February 24 at a military convoy passing through the Ba'asre quarter in Sidon. Correspondents from south Lebanon said that the Israeli patrol consisted of two armoured vehicles. Six soldiers were killed or injured. Thousands of residents in south Lebanon clashed with Israeli soldiers, using stones and clubs in a mass manifestation of resistance, especially in Ma'arka village. They blocked roads with stones and tyres to protest recent assassinations of Shi'ite leaders. (Translation: local dailies, February 28, 1984).

Amal Protects Palestinians in Beirut

by Livia Rokach

As was predictable, as soon as the Italian contingent departed from Beirut the Phalangist forces stationed in east Beirut launched massive artillery fire barrages on the Palestinian camps of Shatila and Burj al-Barajneh, killing 9 camp inhabitants and wounding 110 on Tuesday and Wednesday. The shelling diminished in intensity as of Thursday, following the resumption of artillery attacks from mountain positions on east Beirut neighbourhoods, mainly Ashrafiya and Ain al-Rumaneh.

The wounded — some of whom received critical injuries — are recovering at the former Italian military field hospital, which began to function normally and at full rhythm under the patronage of the medical services of the Supreme Shi'ite Council "five minutes after the departure of the Italians," according to its new director, Dr. Mohammed Mansour. In an interview, Dr. Mansour said the team of Lebanese Shi'ite doctors and nurses who took over the hospital had initially feared some confusion and problems with the population but instead found out that everything could function smoothly.

Palestinian children in Sabra-Shatila also resumed classes this week, while all other schools in both west and east Beirut remained closed. In addition to their books, they also stuff into their bags extra food and clothes for any emergency which might force them to stay at school longer. In any case, it was possible for them to take up their studies again, undoubtedly an achievement.

All the security functions regarding the camps have been assumed by the Lebanese national forces and, in practice, mostly by Amal. An agreement to that effect was concluded last week between the Lebanese resistance forces' unified command in Beirut and the PLO. No armed Palestinian presence will, however, be permitted to revive in the Lebanese capital. On this point there is complete agreement among the Lebanese national forces and between them and the Palestinian organisations. The agreement was adhered to also by Fatah dissidents, after meetings in Damascus of Walid Jumblatt, Nabih Berri and Abu Saleh.

The Murabitoun have taken over the former PLO official representation headquarters on Corniche Mazraa, which before the liberation of west Beirut on February 6 was occupied by Gemayel's troops.

The insistence, on the part of all the Lebanese national forces, on preventing the return of an armed Palestinian presence to Beirut is not motivated only by the obvious necessity to avoid giving Israel and its Phalangist allies pretexts for renewed military interventions and/or massacres. This is an important argument, but other political and strategic considerations bear equal weight on this decision. The greatest majority of the population, of whatever religious or political faith, now supports the national liberation struggle and an initial revolutionary process is being empirically developed by the popular forces, exclusively in terms of a Lebanese national struggle, directed to radically reverse the social, cultural and political balance of forces inside the Lebanese society. Such support, which on the part of certain social classes is still conditional and cautious, would founder immediately if the present leadership of the patriotic forces were to accept a return to a situation that is still regarded with resentment by most Lebanese and that was characterised by the past experience of "the (Palestinian) state within a (Lebanese) state."

On a more immediate and pragmatic level it may also be said that seeing the state of internal dissent in the Palestinian national movement, Beirutis in general have no wish to see their recently liberated city transformed into another Tripoli. Other no less significant considerations are voiced within the more ample framework of the search for a valid strategy for the Arab liberation movement on the whole and of the Palestinian national movement, in this context, in particular.

Be it as it may, the major preoccupation of the Palestinian civilian population in Beirut seems, at least for the moment, allayed. After an initial moment of strong anxiety following the departure of the Italians, Amal's takeover of the contingent's fortified positions around the camps and of the principal command post situated on the road to the airport seems to have reassured the inhabitants of the camps. In a Beirut freed from the nightmare of curfews and constant repression but still immersed in a state of war and in efforts to stabilise its daily life, this is already something.

Erratum: an unfortunate error cited in an earlier issue the number of patients treated at the Italian field hospital as 7000. The figure is close to 70,000, and precisely 69,893.

BZU Student Reports Torture in Detention

Hamzeh Zaqut, 23, a fourth-year student at Bir Zeit University, claimed that security police withheld medical care from him after he was shot in both legs, and then maltreated, humiliated, and degraded him. Zaqut was hospitalised February 22 at Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem after his condition worsened and doctors feared his nervous system might be damaged.

West Bank deputy police commander David Cohen responded that he would examine claims in the case which involve Ramallah police and if he finds that they are well-founded, he will take the necessary steps. A similar response was heard from security elements in charge of the West Bank. They disclosed that they will take Zaqut's testimony in order to question the men involved in the affair.

Hamzeh's story began seven months ago when a demonstration took place in Bir Zeit University July 27 to protest the grenade attack on Hebron University which left three dead. During the demonstration he was shot in both legs by security men. "I didn't participate in the demonstration," Hamzeh said. "It was my birthday and I was on my way home. At 11:00 am I was wounded in my legs and I lay on the ground. Friends who were nearby put me into a car and took me to Ramallah (military government-run) hospital. In the hospital," Hamzeh said, "I received emergency treatment and was told I must be hospitalised in Jerusalem. However, the security men who guarded me prevented my transfer there for ten days and allowed no one to visit me. Only my mother was let in once — for ten minutes."

On his discharge from the Ramallah hospital he felt ill and was rushed to hospital in Jerusalem. There both his legs were operated on and it was clear that the nerves in one leg were damaged. He was hospitalised for 16 days.

"On February 1, I received an invitation to report to the Ramallah police. After five days I reported. Because I refused to sign a form that was partly written in Hebrew, they made me stand in a corner. I was in acute suffering, because the room was cold and the nerve-damaged leg started to 'twitch.' I explained my medical condition and the police mocked me. They informed me that if I didn't sign, they would take revenge against me.

"Later the same day when they finished with me they put shackles on my wrists and took me by car to the military governorate courtyard. There the soldiers or border guards who guarded me would come in and hit me and kick at my legs. This continued for two-and-a-half days. On the third day in the afternoon, when they realised that I was about to faint, they took me to Fara'a prison.

"Three times I was taken by car to a clinic in one of the settlements for injections," Hamzeh claims, "and between one trip and another, I was maltreated and mocked. They tried to force me to walk on both my legs, inspite of the fact that I couldn't put any weight on them. I told my guards to leave me alone and they were laughing among themselves.

"On the third day of my detention, I was taken for trial in Ramallah. I couldn't stand the pains anymore and I lost consciousness. Those who were guarding me knocked my head against the floor.

"I was pulled into the courtroom. There I was accused of trying to injure an Israeli army officer by throwing a large stone at him. I denied the accusation and because of my health condition, another court date was scheduled." Later a Ramallah judge agreed to release him on bail but still he remained chaimed to a bed in Rafidiya Hospital in Nablus for five days. His lawyer had to personally hand the security men the release order before Hamzeh was released and transferred to Jerusalem.

In the meantime, Hamzeh's doctors say there is little chance that he will be able to walk normally again. There is also fear that because of the delay in treatment, the nervous system in one leg cannot be rehabilitated. (Translation: Ma'ariv, February 26, 1984).

Protesters Sit-In to Save Jerusalem Hospice

Over 200 Palestinians representing local Jerusalem organisations held a sit-in in the corridors and offices of the Hospice Hospital to protest plans to close the Old City's only government-run hospital. The Israeli ministry of health and the Teddy Kollek Jerusalem municipality has been pressing to return the building to the Austrian Church.

The Hospice Hospital, whose surgery section was officially ordered to close by March 1, offers cheap services to more than 40,000 poorer Old City residents of Jerusalem who have no medical insurance. The hospital's medical services, including operations, cost the patient IS350 per night compared with IS14,000 at Israeli hospitals. The closure of the surgery department is accompanied by a reduction of beds from 60 to 40.

Dr. Ahmad Muhtadi, director of Hospice Hospital, told reporters that the health ministry's reasons for closing the surgery section are "unfounded."

During the sit-in Ibrahim Dakkak, chairperson of the West Bank Engineers Union, called for escalation of the struggle to foil Israeli moves against the hospital.

Dr. Yasir Obeid, director of the Arab College of Nursing, said, "We will not keep silent on these measures."

A follow-up committee, called the Friends of the Hospice, made up of prominent Palestinian figures, rejects the claims by the Israeli health ministry that the surgery section was closed because of administrative irregularities which brought about the resignation of Dr. Abdullah Khoury, former director of the Hospice Hospital, at the end of 1983, and from the Kollek municipality that the Austrian Church wants the building.

Jerusalem societies and prominent figures sent an appeal to Israeli officials, the Austrian Church and international bodies after the sit-in:

Ahmad Abu Rmeileh, 50, a dry goods wholesaler-retailer in Musrara, near Damascus Gate, Jerusalem, has been ordered to pay an astronomical IS58,103,174 value added tax and fine for concealing bills of sale. Abu Rmeileh received a letter from the Israeli tax department February 9 ordering him to pay this sum within one month. Abu Rmeileh has not paid VAT since 1979, when he received a bill for IS2,560,665. As a result of inflation, calculated according to the cost-of-living index, IS50,670,850 was added to the original bill. The fine of IS4,871,659 brings the total to over IS58 million or close to a half a million US dollars. Jerusalem accountants say that Abu Rmeileh's tax bill is the biggest they have ever seen. Abu Rmeileh's 28-year-old son called the bill "unacceptable, incredible and unpayable." He told *Al Fajr* that his father has not left home since receiving the bill and appears ill and in shock.

Ahmad Abu Rmeileh said he simply did not have a fraction of this money and that he has never even seen such a number in all his life.

Mohammed Ghazi Siam, a certified public accountant who works for Abu Rmeileh, told *Al Fajr* that there is no grounds for such a tax bill. Tax officials calculated his profit as 11.08 percent while Abu Rmeileh says his actual profit is between 3 to 5 percent. Four other Jerusalem merchants received similar bills to pay between IS4 million to 13 million in value added tax.

Lawyers Committee Discusses Rule of Law

Thirty Palestinian lawyers, members of the newly-formed Arab Lawyers' Committee, met February 24 at the Jerusalem Christmas Hotel to discuss long-standing problems facing the legal profession in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Ramallah military governor had refused to allow the meeting to be held in the Ramallah court building.

The committee agreed to hold a seminar on March 30, Land Day, to discuss human rights violations. The lawyers also discussed the Karp report on settler vigilantism, treatment of political prisoners and the status of refugee camps. They urged that fellow lawyers document all violations of the rule of law in the occupied territories.

Ali Ghuzlan, an active member of the committee, described the conditions of Israeli prisons and the treatment of political prisoners. He detailed the recent detention of lawyer Shukri Aboudi, his torture under interrogation and his conviction on a 5-year-old charge which ended in a six-month prison term. Ghuzlan also addressed the meeting about the recently publicised Karp report. "All of us lawyers know that the report is merely a drop in the bucket in relation to the number and seriousness of the violations committed," he said.

Advocate Adnan Abu Leil talked about the unjust and inconsistent judgements handed down by Israeli military courts. He said that Palestinian lawyers feel impotent in defending their clients in such courts because of "the interference of the military commander by issuing instructions to judges regarding sentences." Abu Leil said that military judges, who hear all political cases, pointedly refer to the instructions by the military commander in their decisions.

Jonathan Kuttab, co-director of the Ramallah-based human rights organisation Law in the Service of Man, lobbied the group to document human rights violations.

The Arab Lawyers' Committee was formed in 1983 as an alternative association for working lawyers. At least 300 West Bank lawyers have been on strike since the occupation began in 1967. Their salaries have continued to be paid by Jordan.

Advocates Complain to Military About Legal 'Irregularities'

Seventeen Arab and Jewish lawyers working in Israeli military courts complained February 24 to the West Bank military commander and the military legal advisor regarding decisions and procedures of the Israeli military courts.

The lawyers listed five major court irregularities and demanded an immediate meeting with Israeli military officials. The lawyers complained about:

1. Harsh sentences;
2. Difficulties lawyers experience meeting with their clients during the interrogation period;
3. Illegal treatment of clients during interrogation;
4. The close ties with and interference by official and military hierarchies to the military courts' procedures and decisions;
5. Incomplete reports on interrogation hearings and confession statements.

Lea Tsemel, an Israeli lawyer and a signatory to the letter, told *Al Fajr* that the harsh sentencing and military interferences stirred a number of lawyers to action. When the head of the military courts in the West Bank refused to meet with them, they sent letters to the commander and the legal advisor in the West Bank's military government.

Tsemel said that the legal advisor finally agreed to meet the lawyers next March 21.

Salah Khalaf:

"We Must Create a New Balance of Forces"

The following interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) was published in L'Unita, *the daily of the Italian Communist party, on Sunday, February 26, 1984.*

Q: The head of the PLO's political department, Farouq Kaddoumi, visited Damascus recently and held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Abd al-Halim Kaddam. Was this a meeting authorised by the central committee of Fatah or was it a personal initiative? What are the prospects of a rapprochement between Syria and the PLO?

A. Kaddoumi's visit to Damascus was a private initiative. However, it seems that the meeting was held in a positive atmosphere in certain aspects. Kaddoumi himself told me, however, that it will take more time to re-establish the relations between the PLO and Syria. We are interested in re-establishing such relations. At the present moment of polarisation of the Arab world, we need more than ever to recompose and repair our relationships in order to confront the attack launched against us by the US. We must create new ways for the Middle East to find a new balance of forces which would agree to a solution to the question of Palestine. At this moment the only solution that is proposed is the American one, which is directed to liquidate our cause.

Q. Has the Soviet Union encouraged you to reapproach Syria?

A. In fact, the Soviet Union has never ceased to operate in favour of a re-establishment of the relations between us and Syria within the context of a new regional balance of forces.

Q. How do you see the future of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon? How do you view the Lebanese patriotic forces' opposition to a return of the Palestinian armed presence and the fact that Amal assumed upon itself the task of guaranteeing the security of the Palestinian camps in Beirut?

A. I believe that an armed Palestinian presence in Lebanon at present would have been a serious mistake. Events in past weeks constituted a victory of the Lebanese national movement — and in Beirut, in particular, of Amal. This victory helped to cancel, in fact, the May 17 Israeli-Lebanese accord and the Gemayel regime which had negotiated and concluded it. But any interference on our part would be negative. We must absolutely not interfere in the affairs of the Lebanese movement and we would have no right to do so. At the same time we consider the victory of this movement as enormously positive and it gives us the hope that other accords may likewise be cancelled.

Q. The *New York Times* **has recently revealed that there have been many contacts between the PLO and the US prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and in view of an American recognition of the PLO. Can you confirm this?**

A. Personally, I know nothing of these contacts. I know only that a certain Mroz who had no official position in the US administration had contacts. The US simply used these contacts to mask the Israeli preparations for the invasion of Lebanon. I don't believe that there is any prospect of an understanding with the US as long as they consider the Reagan plan as a basis for a solution. Of course, we don't refuse in principle a dialogue with the US but in reality this dialogue always comes up against the wall of the anti-Palestinian policies of the United States: policies which follow, substantially the lines traced in the Camp David accords and which our people has already rejected.

Joint Women's Demonstration to Support Neve Tertza Strike

Palestinian and Israeli protesters gathered at the edge of the Ramle-Lydda highway next to Neve Tertza prison for women February 24 to publicise their solidarity with the eight-month strike of Palestinian women prisoners. The women struck last May to object to cooking for their guards and have been denied basic

Aroura Regains 114 Dunums

Three family members in Aroura village fought a decree made last year that their land was 'state property' — and won — before the Ramallah military objections committee February 23 by bringing overwhelming testimony that their land has been under cultivation since 1980.

Small landowners Mahmoud Ahmad Saleh, who owns a 12-dunum plot, Taleb Awad Saleh, owner of 40 dunums, and Ziad Yousef Saleh, owners of 62 dunums, had received military orders signed by the 'custodian of absentee property' in Ramallah September 1983 in which Israeli authorities declared their land 'state property.' The Saleh family, who received no maps of the confiscated land, were given 30 days to make a formal objection to the military order. Their lawyer, Nabil Meshahwar, asked the Israeli advisor for a map of the confiscated land. Two months later, on November 24, 1983, the lawyer was provided with an undetailed map of the area and documented the formal objection three days later. The military objections committee heard statements under oath from landowners that their land had been planted with fruit trees and cultivated till 1980. Reports from agricultural experts were read in court and photographs of the cultivated land were also provided to the court.

Najah University Closed Indefinitly

Since the administration-ordered closure of Najah University February 19, extended indefinitely on February 22, tension is still obvious between rival student factions at Nablus. Najah's board of trustees initially ordered the university shut for three days after open clashes broke out on campus.

In an explanatory statement released February 22, the board of trustees announced that an investigating committee would be formed to report on the clashes.

Members of the Islamic Bloc and their supporters fought with students who were holding a festival to mark the second anniversary of the founding of the unified Palestinian Communist Party February 19. Seven Najah University students were slightly injured in the melee. Clashes resumed later between opponents on Nablus streets.

Najah trustee Dr. Nihad Masri condemned the on-campus fighting and predicted that the university would be reopened within one week after students calmed. Masri favours punishing the agitators so that democratic life can be maintained at the university.

Adnan Milhem, student council chairperson at Najah, who was quoted in a front-page article in *Al Fajr* Arabic daily newspaper, said that events at the university were caused by two main factors: "the lack of respect (by some students) of freedom of expression and the failure of university regulations to restrain violence inside the university campus."

Danish Student Sentenced for Photos

A Danish student was arrested on a visit to Israel and brought to court on suspicion of 'spying for the PLO,' *Berlinska*, a Copenhagen daily, reported February 26.

The 25-year-old anthropology student, Annette Kimmer, who was working on an academic paper on the attitude of Israel towards its Palestinian inhabitants, attempted to visit a Ramallah military courtroom to listen to the proceedings. When her entry was refused by the authorities, she photographed the court. The student was arrested for questioning and brought to court. During the trial it was made clear that she also photographed clashes between demonstrating students and police at Bir Zeit University. She was convicted and sentenced to two-months suspended imprisonment. On her return to Copenhagen, Kimmer said she is registering a complaint with Amnesty International. (Translation: Ha Aretz, February 27, 1984).

Hebron Court Restores Land to Owners

A Hebron civil court restored 200 dunums in Tafouh village, Hebron district, to their owners February 21 after judge Samir Ja'abari arranged a compromise in the 1982 land fraud case. An order *nisi* issued by the court 16 months ago barring registration of the disputed land was put into effect. However, the compromise arrangement ordered three landowners who sold 16 to 25 dunums to land broker Saleh Zabarqa to pay US$33,000 in court expenses.

Saleh Zabarqa, a Beduin from Beer Sheba, came to Tafouh in September 1982 and approached brothers Jaber, Yousef, and Mahmoud Dayakeh with an offer to buy land in the village for a chicken farm. Zabarqa succeeded in persuading them to sell a plot for JD8000.

Based on this sale, Zabarqa then cooperated with another group of brokers from Tarqumiya village who forged sale documents for 217 dunums in Ashayet Lozeh and Wadi Sheqaq in block No. 2. The 217-dunum plot, located near the Dayakeh lands, was owned by Mukhtar Mahmoud Zriqat and 13 others from Tafouh and the Hebron area. The landowners were shocked when in October 1982 Israeli surveyors appeared on their land claiming that it was owned by an Israeli company whom they refused to name. The landowners immediately reported the incident to their lawyers, Abd al-Karim Namoura and Yousef Raba'e.

Later it was learned that Zabarqa sold 217 dunums to an Israeli construction firm called 'Youssh Company' for a housing project.

SETTLERS CONFISCATE LAND IN YATTA

Arab Ka'abneh Beduin are preparing to fight in court the confiscation of 1500 to 2000 dunums of their land in Yatta, Hebron district.

In late January 1984, settlers from Karmei'la settlement erected fences around the Arab Ka'abneh houses and lands and claimed that the confiscated land is state property. When the owners complained to the military governor in Hebron last week they were told that the land had been confiscated two years ago in 1982. The landowners say they were never notified of any such confiscation, nor were they provided with maps. Landowners have until March 10 for the complicated process of preparing their land deeds to protest the confiscation in the military-run objections committee. Over 10,000 dunums belonging to Ka'abneh Beduin have been confiscated since 1967 for military purposes.

Eitan Calls for Arab Expulsion

Rafael Eitan, former Israeli chief of staff, made extremist racist remarks against Arabs at Beer Sheba University February 21. Eitan, who also is the founder of a new ultra-right wing movement *Tsomit*, was speaking to students about his faction at the request of the Israeli students general organisation.

When the now retired general boasted of the "victory of Israeli forces to liquidate the infrastructure of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in Lebanon" he was booed by Arab students in the hall. Eitan's immediate response was to address the students directly: "You have been defeated in Lebanon. What are you doing here? Go to Amman or Saudi Arabia." "Fascist," "Murderer," "Fascism Will Not Pass," "No Room for War Criminals" and "Who is Responsible for the Sabra and Shatila Massacres?" were slogans raised by a group of Arab students. The Arab students also sported T-shirts depicting a cockroach in a bottle, a reference to a speech last year by the loose-lipped army officer in which he compared Palestinians to drugged cockroaches in a bottle.

A heated debate broke out between rightist Jewish students and Arab students. Eitan continued in the same vein when he claimed that "after the destruction of the PLO infrastructure, a new terrorism base, the Shi'ite group backed by Syria, was founded in Lebanon." He assured his audience that Israeli forces would remain in Lebanon and that only a military option can solve the Middle East conflict.

The Dawn

AL FAJR

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All Eyes Open

The visit by Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat to Jordan and the talks he will hold with King Hussein and high-ranking Jordanian officials raise questions about the nature of future PLO-Jordanian relations and Palestinian-Jordanian plans for the next process seeking a permanent and just solution for the Palestinian cause.

Arafat's visit to Jordan shows the level of concern in the Palestinian leadership for political work as an integral part of the struggle to try all avenues in search for a just solution that would guarantee the most basic Palestinian rights. Palestinians welcome this dialogue with Jordan only on the basis that it is among two equal political parties and based on the historical relations between the two brotherly peoples.

At the same time the population of the occupied teritories view with great caution the talks in Amman between Yasir Arafat and King Hussein, even though the majority support the dialogue based on equality and mutual respect of rights and independence. This concern is not unfounded. The Jordanian parliamentary measures make us question the real intentions of Jordan towards the Palestinian cause. All signs indicate that these decisions do not even agree with the Fez Summit decisions which restricted the representation of the Palestinian people solely to the PLO and preserved the independence of its decision-making. The Jordanian measures are pushing for the creation of a double representation for the Palestinians that is not acceptable to our people. Secondly, the Jordanian measures, made under the pretext of steadfastness for the occupied people, were made unilaterally without coordination with the PLO.

The Jordanian side did not make clear, so far, the nature of the future relationship with the PLO, which Jordan is now urged to make clear in the current talks. Any agreement should be public to bolster the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue and to make it more credible.

The talks between King Hussein and Hosni Mubarak with US President Ronald Reagan did not indicate that the US is changing policy towards the Palestinian cause and the PLO as a party in the peace process. As for the Israelis, their government has closed all doors to any chance for peace in the Middle East; it does not intend, in any way or form, to negotiate with the PLO.

Any political move to solve the Palestinian cause should be based on the decisions of the Palestine National Council and the Fez Arab Summit. Only this can give the Palestinian cause a push forward in its national and human form; not through bargaining over borders.

NUMBER 200

We celebrate this week issue No. 200 of *Al Fajr* Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly. The conditions under which past issues appeared and the challenges still faced by the workers of this paper made us all uncertain, issue after issue, if it was possible to continue. But other factors have encouraged us and helped us be *samedlin.*

First, we would like to applaud our readers for their patience and understanding... to read through amputated sentences and torpedoed paragraphs. It is due to and for these readers – whether they are old friends who stuck with us from issue No. 1, April 1980, or those who are joining the group of readers day by day – that we continue to report despite the many physical and psychological difficulties accompanying the process, from censorship to arrest.

Over these 200 issues our professional reporting on the day-to-day hardship and events engulfing life in the occupied territories is what has led to our harassment. We felt and continue to feel that our concern for the population of the occupied territories, which no other English publication has shown interest in covering despite all the events that affect the very existence of a whole people, compels us to continue these meagre efforts.

Not least the newpaper stands on the energy, hard work, professionalism and individual commitment of all the workers who have developed into a well-working team.

We would like to promise our readers that the paper will continue to exist and to improve.

NAAA Lobbies Reagan on the Middle East

by Ghassan Bishara
Our Washington, DC Correspondent

Officials of the National Association of Arab Americans (NAAA) met President Reagan January 16 for about 50 minutes to present their views on a variety of Middle East issues and how they perceive the US role in the region. In the meeting, initially scheduled for half an hour but extended to about 50 minutes, the NAAA presented their views on Lebanon, Syria, the Iran-Iraq war and the Palestinian issue.

NAAA, which has chapters in many states and is the only registered Arab American lobbying organisation, is headquartered in Washington, DC. They had sought a meeting with Reagan since last autumn. It was the first they've had since Reagan was elected in 1980 and is the only meeting between Reagan and any of the many Arab American organisations in the US. NAAA's President, Robert Joseph, headed the 12-member delegation. NAAA officials have met former Presidents Ford and Carter and with George Bush, Reagan's vice president.

Talking to the press the next day, Joseph confessed that he was not dreaming of changing US foreign policy in the Middle East and that he only presented the views of a realist who is well-aware of US politics and of his organisation's size and ability to influence American policy-makers.

Joseph indicated his group's support for administration policy in Lebanon, of the withdrawal from Lebanon of all foreign forces, including the PLO, Syria and Israel, the unification of the country under a strong, central government and reconciliation through the sharing of governmental authority among the various factions. The organisation supports the removal of the PLO from Lebanon, in a package alongside the other elements, insisting that Palestinians should be allowed back to Palestine to establish their own state. The NAAA also recommended more American financial aid to Lebanon and expressed concern over the strategic cooperation agreement concluded in late-November between the US and Israel.

The delegation from the NAAA also emphasised the centrality of the Palestinian issue in the Middle East situation and expressed concern over Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories.

NAAA agreed with the White House to tell the press only their part of the talks and not what the President or his aides said. Robert Hazo, from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a member of the NAAA delegation and its director of public policy, said he reminded the president of his call on Israel to freeze settlement activities in the (occupied) territories, one of the positive aspects of the September 1, 1982 initiative, and added that it was unfortunate that "there had been no follow-up" to that. Hazo, who teaches political science at the University of Pittsburg, told the president that those activities are "resulting in a *de facto* annexation of these territories. The way to avoid this *de facto* annexation is to address a comprehensive settlement." He said both the Palestinian problem and Lebanese situation should be addressed urgently and simultaneously since neither can wait. Hazo, who is half-Palestinian and half-Lebanese, also told the president that the Middle East will lose the last chance for a peaceful solution if Israel continues creating facts on the ground which will make occupation irreversible since "despite death, deprivation, frustration and suffering, Palestinians have shown no signs of losing their determination to gain a homeland . . ."

Hazo apparently also discussed the Palestinian problem with the press in mathematical and percentage terms. Talking about a possible territorial compromise, as suggested by Israel's Labour Party, he told the president that even if the Labour Party won the next elections in Israel, their most generous offer would fall short of minimum Palestinian demands. The West Bank, Hazo said he told the press, is only 24 percent of the total area of Palestine and if Jerusalem and its environs are taken out of the 24 percent, as in a partial withdrawal, the Palestinians would be left with about "one-tenth of their original country, and that is simply not enough." It would obviously be interesting to learn President Reagan's response to this detailed, mathematical, yet human, presentation. The US voted for UN Resolution 242 in 1967 which basically called on Israel to withdraw from "the territories occupied in the 1967 war" in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel, but the reality now on the ground has changed. Despite the above resolution, Israel has annexed both the entire Golan Heights and East Jerusalem and has continued settlement activities with US aid, in direct defiance of US policy and Reagan's call for a freeze.

Hazo also attempted to dispell another American myth about the "certain communist nature" of the future Palestinian state. He mentioned to the president that the Palestinian state will not become a communist satellite and that any information to the contrary is Israeli-based and intended to achieve obvious objectives in the US and the West. Hazo then told the president that the Palestinian issue involves "the fate of over 4 million Palestinians . . . there is simply no time for delay."

The president's response, according to other sources, was "There are not that many," to which Hazo said, "I am sorry, Mr. President, there are that many." President Reagan apparently was talking only about those Palestinians under occupation. Hazo rejected a suggestion that Mr. Reagan may be uninformed, adding, "No . . . in fact a number of the remarks made in the exchange indicated considerable awareness of elements of the Palestinian problem."

Hazo concluded by telling the American president that Palestinians, "like every other people in the world, deserve a political entity with full sovereign status in line with self-determination, which is an American tradition." He also mentioned to the president that his September 1 initiative fell short of that, adding "everything less than their own independent place in the sun, however modest it may be, is simply not enough" for the Palestinians, who have been struggling for over a third of a century.

Shamir and the PLO

by Bishara Bahbah

In an interview last week with Dutch Television, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir defiantly declared that Israel would not recognise the PLO nor trust it, even if the PLO were to recognise Israel.

Although there was nothing new in Shamir's declaration – it simply reaffirmed a long-standing Israeli policy – its timing, tone and clarity is telling. Israel's stubborn determination to try and exclude a key party to the Arab-Israeli conflict guarantees the continued state of affairs. The Israelis know very well that the Palestinians recognise only the PLO as their sole representative. Hence, by refusing to deal with the PLO, the Israelis are in effect blocking any attempts at achieving peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinians have come under pressure from various sides urging them to unilaterally recognise Israel, with the expectation that this would then put pressure on Israel to relinquish its control of the occupied territories. To these people we say Israel, as evidenced by Shamir's remarks, is not interested. The United State's position with regards to having any contacts with the PLO, let alone recognising it as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, puts forth two conditions. The first is to recognise Israel and the second is to accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338. How can the US expect the PLO to carry out these two conditions when Israel maintains that it will not recognise the PLO under any conditions?

In short, Shamir's remark only reaffirms that the Israeli governments, one after the other, only want peace at their own terms.

OPINION

AL FAJR invites our readers to contribute letters, articles and opinions. Contributions must be signed, but names may be withheld upon request.

Calling Begin's 'Security' Bluff

by Yehuda Tzur

Menachem Begin's most famous saying "No more Katyushas in the Galilee" follows its author as long as reality, with the help of the guerrillas, contradicts the decisive definition of the former prime minister that "the country will be silent for forty years." It becomes clear that the country, at least at its northern border, has not entered its desired tranquility; in the Lebanon the bloodshed continues according to the tradition of its divided communities' hatred.

The three Katyusha rockets that were fired at Metulla last Thursday from the area under Israeli army domination has broken through the illusions of many of the Galilee residents who believed Begin. There were widespread scenes in Metulla and Galilee settlements in the years before the war in Lebanon of mothers running down the main street to collect their children from playgrounds and put them in shelters immediately after hearing the well-known blast of the Katyushas.

An Introspection

This week the residents of Metulla had the same experience. The region's residents are divided between supporters of the continuation of the Israeli army's stay in Lebanon and those who demand its early return. While the dividing line splits the political parties, the residents so far enjoyed the relative silence that made them forget past events.

Many of them lean on their present tension- and shelling-free life in order to justify if not the war in Lebanon at least the stay of the Israeli army in the country of the cedars until definite arrangements would ensure the security of the Galilee and its settlements. Now, after the rockets, many try to make a deep introspection. However, for the majority of them the three Katyushas don't constitute an essential change in the security situation in the Galilee and in their opinion, "This is an isolated attempt - it is not possible to seal the border."

Yossi Goldberg, the Metulla municipal leader, maintains decisively that too much importance shouldn't be given to the three rockets that landed on his settlement: "This could happen anywhere. It's possible to put a bomb in a public place in Tel Aviv — then what? There is an essential difference between a single shot of hand-made Katyushas, the firers of which carry the load on their backs, and a massive Katyusha shelling from the back of trucks, as we got used to in recent years. Today the citizens in the Galilee walk calmly and it's possible to live without fear."

His wife, Galiyah, is excited after the rocket shots: "This is an old feeling. It came back in a twinkle when we heard the 'booms'. All those old customs have come back to us: to run out, collect the chidren and enter the shelters. This time it was short. I hope that it will not return, but I'm not sure anymore."

On the day after the Katyusha shots, life went back to normal in the veteran settlement. On the sun-lit main street last Friday the renovated post office building was opened. Local leaders and guests from the Shi'ite and Christian villages beyond the border gathered near the building. The main guest, Telecommunications Minister Mordechai Zipori, stated, "The shot was predictable for a long time and we knew they would try to hit the Galilee. This was a single unit. This was a one-time success and I hope that we will catch them. The Israeli front line is far enough to stop the possibility of guerrilla shots at the Galilee."

Avraham Broshi, chairperson of the Upper Galilee Regional Council, also distinguishes between a single firing of some shells and the situation that prevailed before the war: "Single Katyushas may be shot everywhere. I'm not surprised that others speak like myself in the Galilee. As a Galilee resident, I maintain there is no need for the Israeli army to stay in the Lebanese territories forever in order to secure the Galilee's peace. It's enough if we will set up a widened Haddad-strip. However, the most important thing is that we get the Shi'ite populaton; not to dominate it but to convince it to collaborate with us so the Israeli army can withdraw . . ."

Security sources indicated that they never supported Begin's "No more Katyushas in the Galilee" statement; it is impossible to definitely close every *wadi* in the region. However, there is a difference between improvised Katyushas that a person carries on his back and trucks and cannon. "In the field there are tremendous stores of weapons and ammunition that have not been discovered yet and they serve the cases that maybe will further occur in the Galilee."

"Sayings precisely like 'No More Katyushas in the Galilee' encourage the guerrilla organisations to do everything to refute them. . ."

Eight Hits

Since the beginning of the war in Lebanon there were eight attempts to hit the Galilee panhandle with Katyushas. Some attempts were stopped when Israeli army patrols discovered the guerrillas staged near the Shi'ite village of al-Khiam, near Moshav Zarith. In the course of the endless talks between Lebanon and Israel that took place in Kiryat Shemona and that led to the treaty that was signed between the two countries, security sources had discovered Katyusha firers directed at Kiryat Shemona a few hours before the beginning of one of the sessions. However they did not always succeed in stopping the shots. Shells fell in the past near Marjayun and a year ago a Katyusha fell in the orchards of She'ar Yishuv settlement in the Upper Galilee. "Sayings precisely like 'No more Katyushas in the Galilee' encourage the guerrilla organisations to do everything to refute them, even when the damage made is minimal, in order to gain a propaganda victory," people maintain in the Galilee.

Nobody Rose

In a meeting with the Galilee settlements' heads a few weeks ago the defence minister politely rebuked one of the heads who demanded the continuation of preparation of a defence infrastructure and shelters in the region's settlements. Arens brought those attending into the dispute and asked them to rise and contradict his words in public if anyone of them maintained that there is further need for shelters after the war in Lebanon. No one rose.

On a recent Friday, instructions were given again to those responsible for security in the Galilee settlements to make sure that all defence and shelter devices are ready. "We maintained that in spite of the war, and maybe because of it, there is a need to prepare in case again there will be Katyushas in the Galilee," says Avraham Broshi.

Last Friday, on the day after the Katyusha fell, MK Aharon Nahamias, a Safad resident, demanded the defence minister budget soon suitable resources to quickly complete all defence devices and shelters in the Galilee settlements.

In spite of the public statements by Metulla and Kiryat Shemona residents following the shelling, it seems that doubt has started to eat their confidence in the promises that rained in abundance from government ministers after the war in Lebanon that no more Katyushas would fall on the Galilee. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, February 12, 1984).

Likud's Katyusha Smokescreen

by Haim Margalit

If the shooting of Katyusha rockets on Metulla had taken place after the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Lebanon, there would certainly have been heard terrible accusations against the 'defeatists' because of whom "again Katyushas are falling." This time it happened before the withdrawal; the Katyushas were fired from inside the area of south Lebanon that is under the domination of the Israeli army while big forces are set in unceasing patrols for hostile elements. The promise "No more Katyushas," that was lauded by Menachem Begin at the beginning of the Lebanon war, is exposed as unreliable.

The right, that has no reply to the labyrinth into which the Israeli army has gotten in Lebanon, tries to play false melodies of protection for the northern Galilee settlements. The opposition to the war — the (Knesset) oppostion, Peace Now and all the sane people — are presented as lazy coffee-house layabouts who take too easily the security of Kiryat Shemona, Metulla and the rest of the northern settlements' residents. The 'Peace for Galilee Campaign' didn't solve at all the security problem on the northern border. It will be possible to treat the subject more efficiently within the maintenance of security arrangements in southern Lebanon if the army returns home. This was the situation before the war and, as will be remembered, throughout the year preceding the war. The northern settlements were not bothered by damaging hits.

However, the government and the Likud would find an escape even today and will turn the Katyushas that fell on Metulla into an additional argument for the continued stay in Lebanon. So they say: "Imagine how many Katyushas would fall if the Israeli army were not set in Lebanon . . ." because the war must find a justification in order to cover the failure of those responsible for the biggest of the Likud government's adventures. (Translation: February 12, 1984).

As dependent labourers, consumers and agricultural producers, the West Bank and Gaza populations have been manipulated by Israel to absorb the greatest shock from any Israeli financial disaster. Daoud Kuttab looks at the West Bank after the October collapse of the Israeli financial market.

Economies Under Occupation Cushion Israeli Collapse

The West Bank and Gaza Strip have never enjoyed economic self-reliance or independence. The collapse of the Israeli economy in October seriously affected the population of the occupied territories who are — in the economic realm — virtually defenceless prey for Israel.

The economies of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were weak and dependent even before the Israeli occupation. From 1948 to 1967 the Jordanian and Egyptian governments refrained from investing in the Palestinian territories they held and put their money closer to home — in Amman and Cairo.

Except for a handful of small factories in the West Bank, none of which competed with Jordanian enterprises, no real industry was allowed. West Bank economic life centred on tourism and agriculture.

The Situation Today

After the Israeli occupation, when workers from the occupied territories, especially refugees, gravitated to jobs in Israel, there was a noticeable rise in the standard of living, measured by consumer items. But this superficial rise in earning power was at the cost of further weakening the territories' indigenous economy. With increasing dependence on the Israeli economy, the occupied territories became a kind of shock absorber for the wildly fluctuating but ever-declining Israeli economy. Bir Zeit University economist Bakr Abu Kishek explained why Israel's economy is so unreliable. "If it weren't for the constant US injection of large sums of grants, the Israeli economy would not last three months on its own," he said. Abu Kishek also noted that unlike other countries, the Israeli economy is controlled by political constraints: "For one, Israel cannot afford any kind of unemployment. If an Israeli becomes unemployed," Abu Kishek said, "he simply packs up and goes home to where he came from. This would be the beginning of the end of the Israeli state, which is based on Jewish immigration not emigration."

Not able to use unemployment to slow down inflation, Israeli politicians respond by pumping more money into the economy and artificially supporting industries to keep them running. Industrial managers, on the other hand, deal with the declining economic situation by reducing their work force, starting, of course, by dismissing Arab workers from the occupied territories who are unprotected and without compensation rights, unlike their Jewish counterparts.

Labour

Almost one year after the occupation began, Israeli business began to exploit the available pool of cheap Arab labour. Around 80,000 Arab unemployed workers found jobs in the Israeli service and construction sectors and until today perform the 'dirty work' in Israeli factories, homes and municipalities. They get low pay and work without rights.

Bakr Abu Kishek, head of the economics department at Bir Zeit University, calls these labourers a 'safety valve' for the Israeli economy. "It is very simple," he says. "Israeli industry can use the Arab labourers or stop using them without having to worry about rights, compensation or unions. So when the economy is good, a phone call is made to a labour contractor and workers arrive. When business slows, the workers are simply asked to go home."

Palestinian workers in Israel receive an average of 60 percent of the salary of a Jewish worker and have more dependents to support as well. While statistics show that the average Jewish family consists of 3.2 children, the average Arab family is double this.

Since last October's crash of the Israeli economy, there has been a significant increase in Palestinian workers without jobs. Unemployment figures in the occupied territories, however, are hard to find. For one thing, unregistered workers who lose their jobs are not included in government statistics. Many wage labourers often lose jobs and then are rehired after several days. This phenomenon, which economists call frictional unemployment, is widespread. Another reason for underestimating unemployment in the occupied territories is the social aspect. A Jerusalem economist explained that the Arab worker who leaves home to find a job will roam around rather than stay home and admit he has no work. "The crisis is confronted, however, when there is not enough money to buy food," he said. "But the way Palestinian homes are stocked, especially in winter, it usually takes a while."

In the Hebron area, ct, a large working class district, four major labour contractors have been without work for some time. Each contractor usually is in charge of securing several hundred workers. According to *The Jerusalem Post's* local supplement in the Jerusalem area alone, about 31,000 Arab construction workers have been layed off their jobs.

Day labourers who wait outside Jerusalem's Damascus Gate for jobs explained how critical the situation is today. Mohammad Ali, from Abu Dis, told *Al Fajr* that he and his friends find work only two days a week at a daily wage of IS2000. The rest of the week he loiters in the Musrara area, waiting for jobs. Ali said that a year ago they used to bring in IS10,000 working five or six days a week.

Agriculture

The agricultural economy, on the other hand, is hampered as a result of the controlled markets. West Bank and Gaza products are not automatically allowed into Israel or even East Jerusalem, while Israeli agricultural products flood the West Bank.

New military orders no. 1019 and 1035, which were implemented this year, restricted West Bank farmers from planting crops which might compete with Israeli market produce. The orders force farmers to obtain permits for the amount and kind of vegetables they can plant.

Farmers who depend on rain — the vast majority of West Bank farmers — have had no good news. With the winter almost completed, this year's rain came far too late and too little to save the winter season crops. Farmers had just emerged from a bad year; many left crops unpicked because of the low prices and the cost of labour.

Agricultural products which were not allowed to be sold in Israel had previously found markets in Jordan. But Jordan also favoured its own farmers and this year considerably reduced the quantities of West Bank produce allowed to cross the bridges.

In pursuing its political goals, Jordan even restricts the passage of agricultural goods from the West Bank to other Arab countries. Since April 1983 hundreds of West Bank farmers complained against the newly imposed regulations by the Jordanian government and called on brotherly Arabs to help them through their crisis.

Tourism

Tourism, a major income generating industry, was hurt after '67 by Israel's control of Holy Land tourists. As the tourist industry in the post-'67 era became big business, multinational firms moved in and swallowed the market, greatly affecting Arab hotels and agencies which operated in much smaller groups. In East Jerusalem, for example, only two hotels of 55 and 25 beds were built, while in West Jerusalem three 1000-bed five star hotels were built and a number of smaller hotels also added. Arab tour guides, who must now obtain Israeli government-issued licenses, are discriminated against. Since the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982, the tourist trade has slowed to a trickle. Local tour agency owners said business started to pick up in mid-'83 but collapsed again with the military escalation in Lebanon. "When a prospective tourist sees bloodshed in nearby Lebanon, he decides on cancelling his trip to the Holy Land," one hotel owner told *Al Fajr*. Most Jerusalem hotels have been empty this winter, yet owners must still pay expenses and salaries to keep staff on.

Local Merchants

According to Israeli government statistics, the occupied territories import from Israel US$600 million dollars worth of goods annually. Abu Kishek says that this amounts to 89 percent of the occupied territories' total purchases. So Palestinian merchants have little choice but to stock Israeli consumer goods. Thus the slowdown of the Israeli economy is automatically reflected throughout the occupied territories.

Fayeq Barakat, head of the Federation of West Bank Chambers of Commerce, explains that the problem has been compounded as a result of Israeli taxes. "Tax men are robbing us in broad daylight," he said. Barakat told *Al Fajr* that he knows a number of merchants who literally close their shops and run away when the tax men are in the area. Barakat notes that losses this year among local Arab merchants amount to hundreds of thousands of Jordanian dinars.

Local Industry

Palestinian industry — what little there is — has not fared much better. The slowdown in the economy has forced many already small local industries to cut back staff. A number of sewing sweatshops which used to subcontract for Israeli companies have had to close down. With orders not coming, factories dependent on Israeli contracts just sit and wait. Israeli occupation authorities hinder the development of local industry through military laws and regulations effectively strangling establishment and funding of indegenous industries.

While conceding that local industry has many things going against it, Bakr Abu Kishek complained that management, often controlled by families or individuals, has not seriously tried to improve their products. "With competition from Israeli products, they must exert real effort to improve their products or else they will be eaten up by better Israeli products," he said.

Although Palestinian industry has a long way to go, it appears to be the best investment against the manipulation and dependence of Israeli factory and industry owners towards Palestinian workers and the economy of the occupied territories.

Nablus' Economy Diagnosed

by Atef Sa'ad

Unemployment, partial or total halts to production, delay in payment of workers' salaries, compulsory unpaid, open-ended vacations for employees and the recession are the most visible signs of the deteriorating economic situation in the industrial, commercial and technical sectors in Nablus, the largest West Bank town with a population of more than 100,000. There are also continued tax raids on Nablus stores. Rarely does a day go by without a raid. This leaves the residents of the occupied territories wondering if they have to pay the price of the crisis in the Israeli economy.

Nablus industrialists are worried and confused over the future of the city's factories. Some of the sweets industries, like Capri Sugar and Sweets Factory, were recently forced to stop production for one week because they didn't have "enough cash to pay salaries for their 15 workers." They are hoping to raise cash by selling stock.

The 'Tiger' shoe factory paid its 150 employees their salaries February 5 but recently laid off seven people.

The deteriorating situation is very visible in the sewing factories since most of them rely on Israeli companies. The 'Fahd Wahbeh and Bro.s' factory, considered one of the largest in the West Bank operating with modern machines, was forced to shut down for three weeks. Around 180 employees work there. It was operating again February 5 but at half capacity.

The smallest shops which employ two to five workers have been completely crushed. Their owners and employees are now looking for work somewhere else. In Nablus alone there are 140 sewing shops, employing between 1500-2000 persons. The secretary of the Union of Tailors Shops in Nablus said there is "more than 80 percent unemployment rate in this sector."

When there is construction in the city, carpenters, blacksmiths, painters, electrical and mechanical technicians all have work. The stone-cutting and tile factories are also directly dependent on the construction sector.

But now construction is slowing down and many are cut out. Dozens of unemployed construction workers stand near al-Hussein square in the centre of the city.

Talking to these workers, it was found out that they had been "selling like this" for more than two months, waiting for a contractor to give them a job, but to no avail. Most of these workers come to Nablus from neighbouring villages like Beit Fourik, Azmout, Beita, Salem and Deir al-Hattab.

The tile factories have also cut down on their employees. The 'Modern Tile Factory' recently gave an open-ended, unpaid vacation to 25 workers.

Even jewelry shops and gold bullion traders are hurt. Tax and customs officials harry them constantly. They protested this action by refusing to buy or sell anything for a week last month. They were also protesting a new law which requires them to pay taxes at the rate of IS180 on each gram of gold. (Abridged translation: Al Talia February 9, 1984).

A nation's best resource is its youth. Here **Abu Elias Yaffawi** takes readers to three West Bank refugee camps for a look at Youth Activities Centres, begun by UNRWA but maintained 30 years later on the enthusiasm and spirit of Palestinian teenagers.

Camp Youth Activities Centres – Dealing with the Here and Now

The Dheisheh Youth Activities Centre building, welded shut by the Israeli military in April 1982. Stepped up harassment against this camp's club has only further fueled concerted publicity and self-help campaigns by the camp's residents.

What does Tulkarm refugee camp's number one football rating have to do with the Shoufat camp scout troupe? The distribution of clothing and food to the needy in Dheisheh with the levelling of Shoufat's main road? An Israeli High Court case against the military blockade of Dheisheh's main entrances with the Tulkarm camp's only library?

The answer is straightforward. These cultural, athletic and social efforts, and dozens more, are the result of the cooperation and independent achievement of the West Bank's refugee camp Youth Activities Centres.

On February 10 representatives from the 17 Youth Activities Centres met with their sponsors from UNWRA's welfare division to discuss a programme of activities for the coming year. Intra-centre athletic and cultural events topped the agenda at the Jericho meeting. A special committee was designated to plan events for 1985, International Year of Youth. But after football matches and chess meets were scheduled, the youths queried UNRWA officials about what action they were taking for the five youth centres closed by military order, leaving more than a quarter of their membership without facilities.

The Youth Activities Centres have served an important function since their establishment by UNRWA in the mid-50s by giving young boys and men the opportunity to improve their athletic, creative and scholastic talents. The centres also provide invaluable assistance to the camp community by organising volunteer projects. As the hub of youth activities in the camp, the activities centres suffer from Israeli military efforts to block any collective Palestinian action, particularly where political discussion and activities are involved.

Today UNRWA's role is primarily passive: as a permit-holder for the centres' buildings, as administrative assistant and organiser of communal meetings. The 3500 centre activists from the West Bank's 17 camps are essentially on their own: the boys support their clubs through volunteer work and membership dues. All the centres are active and growing, even those in Kalandia, Dheisheh, Fawwar, Aida and Balata camps whose buildings were shut by military order in the past two years.

Al Fajr spoke to administrative representatives and members at the Tulkarm, Shoufat and Dheisheh centres who were all enthusiastic about their accomplishments and future plans. The centres are similar in administrative organisation and concentrate their activities in four spheres: athletics, culture, after-school education and community service. Strengths vary from centre to centre. Tulkarm camp is best known for its athletic achievements. Shoufat boasts the only refugee camp scout troupe. Dheisheh faces particular problems: occupation forces welded shut the doors of the centre's buildings in April 1982. Dheisheh members, in contrast to their Tulkarm and Shoufat counterparts, have been most active on the political front. Members launched a legal case against the military blockade of camp roads and have been at the forefront of West Bank protests at the plans of now-resigned minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben Porat to liquidate the camps.

Democratic Organisation

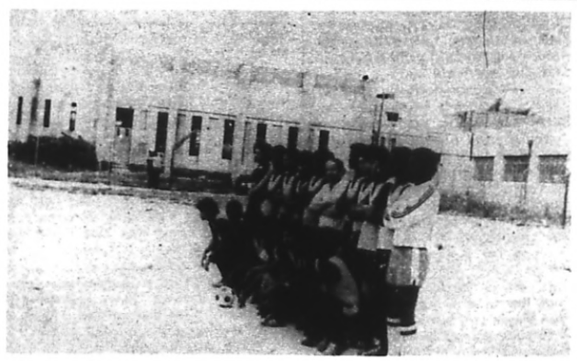
Youth Activities Centres in the West Bank today follow a pattern of organisation formulated by UNRWA. The centres are exculsively for boys and young men. Asked why girls and young women are not included, Abd al-Salam Kharoubi, the UNRWA official concerned solely with the youth centres, says that UNRWA-sponsored Women's Activities Centres provide the formal social and cultural network for camp women.

UNRWA officials as well as centre members are quick to point to the democratic and structured nature of the organisation of the centres. The total membership of a centre constitutes a general assembly which meets communally to elect representatives to each of four committees to support the centre's main activities: athletic, cultural, social or volunteer and the boys' programme, a special project for 14-16-year-olds, most active during the summer. One member from each committee is elected to the administrative committee, which in turn chooses a supervisor as a centre-wide leader. The administrative committee handles the finances of the centre which are drawn from membership dues and contributions and some UNRWA allocations.

Growth and Independent Achievement

One of the first youth centres in the West Bank was established at Tulkarm camp. Mohammed Jarallah, presently director of UNRWA's public relations, supervised its establishment in 1959. Aside from recreation the prime concern, says Jarallah, was to eradicate illiteracy by providing tutorial services during after-school hours. A small library was the pride of the centre. "At that time," remembers Jarallah, "the centre was essentially an UNRWA-maintained institution, though 'do-it-yourself' schemes were encouraged and organisers volunteered their time and effort."

The Tulkarm centre now boasts 500 active members, the largest West Bank membership, a 1500-book library and a varied programme of athletic and cultural activities. Aref Yousef Ali, with 15 years of involvement, is centre supervisor, a volunteer post. Ali points proudly to the independent achievements of the centre: a cafeteria and games room were built by the members. The sports committee is especially proud of the football team which has a first-rate rating in the occupied territories.



The Tulkarm Youth Activities Centre's football team, ranked number one in the occupied territories.

"Education is one of our top priorities," says Ali. "We hope to enlarge the library and plans are underway for the construction of a second storey above the original building to house it. Guest lecturers on all subjects are frequently invited to the centre. A 'wall-magazine' — a feature of all youth centres — is compiled monthly by the social committee to circulate camp news, broaden understanding of the social services and as a forum for poetry and literature competitions.

Zuhair Ayat, in his 20s, says he comes to the centre every day: "There is no other place to go. This is the best place for youth to spend their leisure time. There is no billiards anyplace else, for example." Zuhair is particularly interested in the achievements of the voluntary work committee. It levelled the camp's main road, has helped in the construction of homes and, especially in winter, distributed 'help-in-kind' to needy families. "This is not just a case of muscle and manpower either," notes Zuhair. "We have members who are professionals — architects, engineers and doctors — who contribute their services."

Asked about Israeli interference, Aref Yousef Ali does not hesitate to say, "the center has no contact with them." Concerning UNRWA's contribution, he says: "The centre has to depend on itself. We just get some advice from the agency."

Athletic and social achievements top the bill at the Shoufat Youth Centre as well. The centre uses the nearby school field to practise football, volleyball and basketball. The centre was founded in 1969. It is based in a building constructed three years ago by volunteers which has facilities for table tennis, the martial arts and fitness training. The Shoufat centre has been the only camp youth organisation to organise a scout troupe.

Bassam Faris, centre supervisor, points to its often overlooked role in providing educational opportunities. According to Faris, lectures on scientific topics given by experts drawn from the local community are always popular events. The centre is equipped with a stage and lighting fixtures for occasional drama productions. Talal Abu Afifeh, member of the administrative committee, considers volunteer work done for the entire community as particularly significant. Recently months ago the volunteer committee completed repairs on the camp's main street and acts as a volunteer fire department, especially in the winter when accidents are most frequent.

To show solidarity with families of political prisoners, groups are organised to distribute gifts to them on Prisoners Day.

Illustrating how a centre project can develop into a camp institution, Afifeh cites garbage collection: "Centre youth used to distribute plastic bags for rubbish collection. Today the centre is in a position to sell the bags and the camp is kept clean through the efforts of the residents." Says Hussein, an active member in his teens, about the overall value of the centre: "Youth are the most important part of society. The centre provides opportunities for us to improve our health and minds and to provide society with important benefits."

As in Tulkarm, Shoufat members maintain that they are not affected by the Israeli military authorities. Faris, however, requests more financial and technical assistance from UNRWA.

Dheisheh's Special Problems

In contrast, Israeli harassment is the prime topic of concern at Dheisheh Youth Activities Centre. With the closure of the Kalandia centre in 1981, Israeli military authorities intensified their harassment of camp centres. During 1982, Dheisheh and Fawwar were shut and last year Aida and Balata youth were barred from their centres' buildings by military order. According to UNRWA officials, no reasons have been given for the closures.

The Dheisheh Youth Activities Centre building was welded shut in April 1982, following camp demonstrations on Land Day (March 30). The closure has hampered activities but not the determination of members to practise outside the centre, provide services to the camp and express their resistance to military actions and policy vis-a-vis the refugee population.

The centre was also established in 1969 and its building too was constructed by volunteers. Before the closure body-building and karate were popular athletic activities and the social committee produced a magazine which included political news and debate. Dheisheh's football team, now in union with Aida's, now practises in Bethlehem.

Hussein Shahin, former member of the administrative committee, speaks highly of the achievements of the voluntary work committee: "The volunteers reflect the practical idea behind the centre. Recognising its role in serving the camp as a whole, the committee is especially active in the winter and during curfews collecting basic commodities, transferring the ill to hospital. We also maintain strong links with nearby villages and help with olive-picking during the harvest season."

Contact with outside institutions is a major feature of Dheisheh activities since the closure. Jawdat Mana', secretary of the administrative committee, lists a series of publicity and legal efforts taken on by the centre members. Among 20 residents involved in a High Court case presented in June 1983 demanding the lifting of the barriers which now seal all main entrances of the camp are a number of centre members, including its supervisor, Hassan Abed Jawwad.

Painted scenes of Palestinian village life form the backdrop of the Tulkarm Youth Activities Centre's theatre. Drama, *dabkeh* (above) and singing (right) express these boys' rich Palestinian cultural heritage.

Thirty years ago UNRWA established welfare and community development centres, as the youth centres were first known, in Jalazon, Tulkarm, Amman-New Camp and Irbid in northern Jordan. In 1960 all existing centres were gathered under the agency's welfare division. A general conference for the training of camp leaders from Jordan, Syria and Lebanon was convened under the direction of the World Alliance of the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) at Brumana, Lebanon. The mountain town remained the site for general training conferences until the outbreak of the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war. According to Abdullah Isma'il of UNRWA's welfare division, an initiator of the Jalazon centre, only these centres in Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza remain active today.

According to *Regulations, Order and Administration of Youth Activities Centres*, published by UNRWA in 1967 and still in use today, the centres are there to serve three basic purposes: developing cultural, mental and physical potential; training youth for leadership roles; and serving society at large. The list of purposes comes with this proviso: "The centre absolutely does not interfere in political, party and sectarian affairs."

Last December, centre youth were aided by members of the Committee for Solidarity with Bir Zeit University with new construction on Shatila Street. The joint effort was broken up by the military. The centre has met with UNRWA West Bank Director Roy Skinner on two occasions to press for more action to get the centre reopened and held a press conference to protest the Ben Porat scheme.

Yearly elections for the centre's board stopped in 1982 when the building became off-limits to camp residents. Two members of the old administrative board were issued 'town arrest' orders by the military not to leave the borders of the camp for any reason. Despite the harassment, both men, journalist Hamdi Faraj and Nasser Attiyeh, have remained in the forefront of Dheisheh's campaign to publicise the increasingly repressive policies against the camp. Dheisheh's location — close to the population centre of Bethlehem and a major West Bank university — has helped the committee, even those under town arrest, maintain outside contacts with area organisations.

Contrary to the image of refugee as relief-seeking, the youth centre has also organised camp residents into providing help to other communities. Neighbouring villages of al-Khadr, Batir and Wad Fuqin, all threatened by encroaching Israeli settlements, have been assisted by voluntary work groups from the centre who work alongside farmers in the field by cleaning land, planting and harvesting.

The centre has also been instrumental in strengthening the concrete solidarity work of other segments of the camp population. The administration worked with the camp's education committee to enlist the help of Bir Zeit undergraduates to tutor teenagers studying for *tawjihi* exams. Their joint work with other camp communities helped to organise a clothing drive, hospital care for the ill, and help to political prisoners, arranging family visits and legal aid, for example.

The Youth Activities Centre's main problem at Dheisheh is the sheer quantity and scope of work to be done, all of which overshadows their 'spokesperson' role in the camp. "Our duty is to protect the camp," Abed Jawwad said emphatically. "We have nothing more to lose; that is why we are progressive."

Members of the Dheisheh camp youth centre register perhaps the loudest complaints against UNRWA. Although women in Dheisheh camp are particularly active — 300 mothers once descended on the Bethlehem municipality in June 1980 to protest arrests of their school-age daughters — UNRWA rules strictly prohibit them from participating in the centre, an unfair restriction, says the board, which harms everyone.

The relief agency is also determined not to say anything about camp conditions that could be construed as a political viewpoint but their lack of inteference, camp residents charge, is a political statement in itself. Soldiers are not supposed to enter the camps without UNRWA permission, yet this regulation has been so eroded that soldiers not only go into the camps, especially Dheisheh, at will, but even use, close and destroy UNRWA buildings — schools and health clinics, as well as youth centres.

The Youth Activities Centres, the only organisations operating camp-wide in the West Bank, are really 'just a bunch of kids' who have organised themselves and others to create, develop, improve and protest. With the barest of resources and the maximum of obstacles, the camp youth have made their own infrastructure, not with buildings but by linking people.

More than 400 Palestinian villages simply do not exist anymore, bulldozed by Israeli forces during and after the 1948 war. Only neglected olive trees, cactus, and crumbling terraced walls on hillsides mark their place. But now, as **Awad Abdel Fattah** tells us, they've been put back on the map.

Palestine on Paper

Birweh, Ain Zeitun, Hittin, al-Bus . . . the two generations of Palestinians born since 1948 have only vague notions of the names and places of the Palestine before 'Israel.' A few maps have been drawn and distributed outside Palestine but, due to restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities, have been unavailable to those who live here. For this reason it is not odd that most young Palestinians are ignorant of the transformation which has been made by the Israelis of the sites and place-names in Palestine. Inside the 1948 borders of Israel the approximately 600,000 Palestinians only have access to the Israeli government-made 'map of Israel.' This is what stands in classrooms before Palestinian students and which, they say, is firmly planted in their minds. Palestinian teachers are prevented from deviating from the Israeli government-appointed curriculum which obliterates any mention of Palestinian identity.

But now a new-old map of Palestine before 1948 will be available to every Palestinian home. The wall map was issued last month in Arabic after eight months of painstaking research and careful drawing by the Jerusalem-based Arab Studies Centre. On the map appear about 1600 names of Palestinian sites and villages, and Jewish settlements which were established by the Zionist organisations before 1948. To the shock of many Palestinians, more than 400 names of Palestinian villages which are printed on the map do not exist today. "Even me," said the planner of the map who preferred anonymity, "I never knew that such a large number of villages were ruined or destroyed" — this, although he himself studied geography in an Arab country and is from the West Bank.

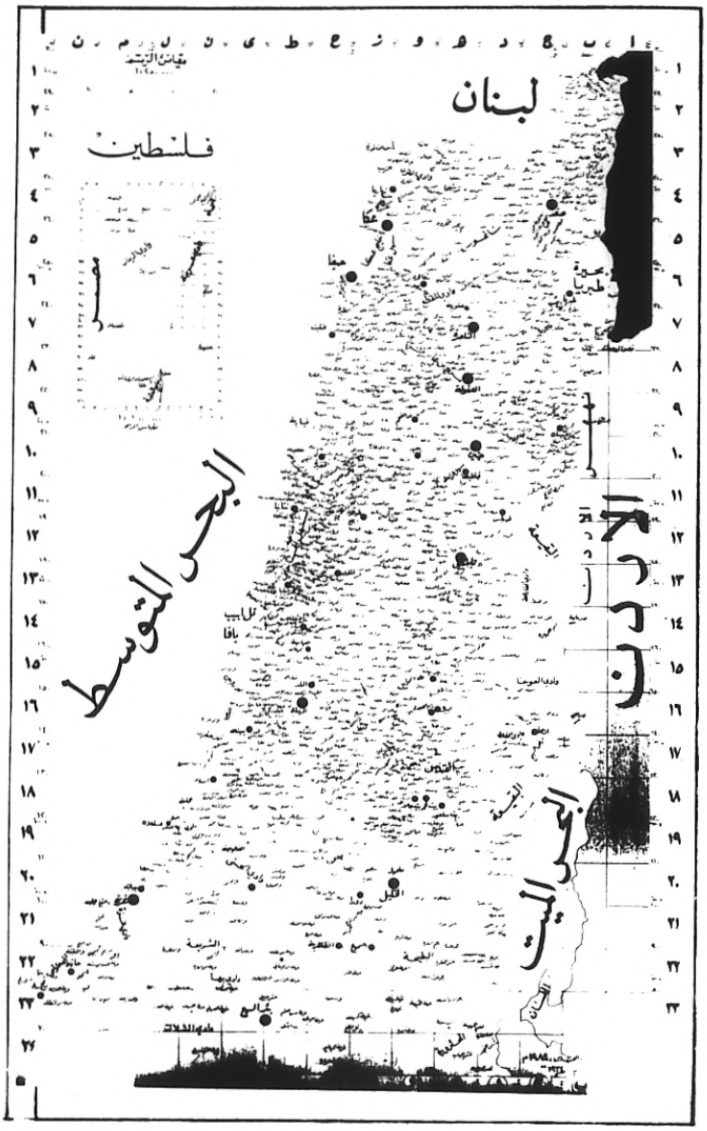
The map is not drawn to scale; it merely identifies the villages and towns in Palestine. The work on the map was not done in the field. Ishak Budeiri, one of the administrative board of the Arab Studies Centre, said, "We had the idea of sending out a team but we didn't have sufficient funds."

Work on the map was tedious. "It needed patience to achieve maximum accuracy," the planner recounted. As an example, he said, "Once I spent one week researching a certain village."

The idea of the map came about when the Arab Studies Centre considered reissuing a book published in Jerusalem on the geography of Palestine — *Biladna Filistin* (Our country, Palestine) — edited by Costantine Nequla, a longtime teacher of geography from Bethlehem. The book included the original names of Palestinian villages, towns, mountains, valleys and plains for which a map was needed.

The map-maker planner found he could not start work before studying the old maps which the centre had obtained. The oldest map dated back to 1924 and small English copy maps were issued in 1934, apparently by the British mandate government. He also depended on a map issued in 1964 but he said he had no idea of the source. "Although all these maps," he explained, "were inadequate because they lacked many places and villages, they were all I had to work with."

He told *Al Fajr* that he also depended on Israeli references, such as "The Official Guide to Israel,' which names some Palestinian villages which were destroyed and replaced after 1948 by Israeli settlements.



One of the major problems he faced was finding 20 villages which did not appear on any of his working maps. A pronunciation key is to be distributed with the map.

Preparation for the book began in 1974 when the Arab League asked each country's representative to the meeting of the Arab Cultural and Educational Committee in Beirut to prepare a list of correct geographical names. Constantine Nequla, then director of teaching aids for Jordan and the West Bank, undertook to head a team of teachers to prepare a list of place-names in Palestine. "We prepared over 3000 names in both Jordan and Palestine, with the correct spelling and pronunciation," said Nequla. They later became the basis for his book. Two other map-making projects are underway. A map of more than 400 destroyed Palestinian villages is almost complete. A listing published by the Haifa-based *Al Ittihad* newspaper two years ago was not complete, he said. "This figure, 377, did not include the villages which were sold by the Ottoman government to Jews in the 19th century."

This map, which will appear within two months, will detail which villages were completely destroyed or partly destroyed and which were replaced by Israeli settlements. "This will be the first map of its kind in Palestine," Ishak Budeiri said.

A third map is also being drawn of the West Bank, including the Israeli settlements which were established after 1967. "With this," said Budeiri, "we will have a true picture of Palestine's past and present." Explaining the purpose of the maps, he said that Palestinians must know their country well. "It is part of their life and even a part of them." Constantine Nequla, speaking as a teacher of geography, said, "You cannot teach the geography of a country without knowing the real names of the places and their sites. You cannot teach half truths." He added, "We, as Palestinians, must know our homeland."

The three-colour map has been distributed all over Palestine, including the areas within the 1948 borders of Israel. Its relatively high price, JD3 (about IS1200), has not prevented people from buying it. One young man who distributed it in the Galilee told *Al Fajr*, "Those who bought it were very happy to see such a map." The distributors, who keep 25 percent of the price of each map they sell, have donated their profits for social, cultural and political activities organised in their villages. An English edition of the map is to be published soon for international distribution.

PALESTINE AND LITERATURE

His close friends say he was an anarchist because he did not belong to a political faction. Is he leftist or rightist? He is not. Does he belong to the tribe of Adnan or Qahtan? He does not. He was a "Palestinian Like the Blade of Sword"; that is the name of his first collection, which he wrote in Jordan in 1970. He was a Palestinian until martyrdom.

Ali Fodeh, a refugee in Amman, fell martyred in 1982 in Beirut during the Israeli siege as he was distributing *Rasif* (Wayside) magazine among fighters. Fodeh was an editor of the literary magazine, one of several published by the PLO. He published several poetry collections. The 45-year-old writer was prominent in the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Union.

Ali Fodeh: A Poet Who Died Under Fire

I Say to the Children of the Town: Farewell The Holy Child

by Ali Fodeh

After some moments I will say to the children of the town: farewell
after that I will depart
I do not need farewell kisses from the elders
nor their tears
many things would be transmitted through their polluted lips
and their tears are saved for ugly crocodiles to shed
therefore I do not need them
I do not need, oh town,
do not need
because I lived on your petty land
you hugged me in strange eagerness
you said: enter, oh good peasant
after some moments
the elders began mocking my rural accent
you, town, also after some moments,
lit in my lace lamps of temptation
I was dragged behind pimps and pirates . . . I am the holy child
I was dragged, descended to your women made of stone . . . I am the holy child
I descended, knew heartless people . . . I am the holy child
I learned, saw those who fornicate even with stones
I am the holy child
I saw and experienced many times the taste of death
I intimately associate with all your trappings, oh town,
I did not blaspheme, I swear,
I did not kick
I was satisfied with the looks of blame, for days, months, years
I was convinced of my loneliness for days, months, years
but the straw
the straw which cut the head of the bird
and so saddened the tree,
aroused the sea, launched cannons and devils in my chest
the straw which forces me to say farewell to the children of the town
after that I will depart
this straw is those cowards
those who left me alone in the bloodied square
those who kicked the chair under the gallows
and said that I am not entitled to my homeland
those who described my former innocence with naivety
those who prevented me from befriending the rain
I apologise now
no embraces, nor tears
farewell children
the swallow must depart

Never Been

She had never been a prostitute,
her name was Camila the songstress,
all that she had done was to be sensitive to cold
more than other women
she used to see that he is
he alone is, contrary to all other men, her fire.
his wide chest is a field of maize, upon its corncobs birds
are jumping
his name is 'love'
his eyes are forests of green almonds, grass and innocence
his name is 'love'
love, oh love, could the enchanted resist all these falling
stars from his brow, when darkness is everywhere
oh . . .
she had never been a prostitute even when she yielded to him on a stormy night
delicious as plums, she is
good as a deer, she is
never never never a prostitute
her name only Camila, the songstress

To Pushkin

Pushkin...
A Caesar had gone long days ago, oh Pushkin,
but other Caesars were born again
and with them were born their traditional slaves
they are numerous now, oh Pushkin,
their slaves who plot against wives, children, and poets
what would you do if you came back?
what had your beautiful lady done after you
to secure the safety of the world's peasant women?
what would you do if you discovered that Caesars are still alive
and bureaucrats are on every road and byway?
what would you do, oh Pushkin?
the time is not yours, nor the place
would you call them for a duel as you did in the past?
do you kill yourself again for the sake of honour, nobility
and downtrodden human beings?
perhaps
perhaps you would do, my friend

Ma. . . Ma. . . Ma. . .

The small calf laughed when it saw the coming person
It laughed, its pearly teeth flashed and foamed
its fragile stomach swelled
when it learned about its eternal opponent
who came with its equipment
it attempted to go round
to kid
he turned his face
it flashed a cheerful smile
it did not turn
he drew his big knife and approached
the small calf wept
tears made a path through her youthful cheek
it gave a horrible cry: "ma . . ma . . . ma . . ."
a group of her comrades came
they started wailing, wailing, wailing
it is a national hymn of the kingdom of cows
"The first creator of war, oh man . . . you or I?
first shedder of blood, oh man . . . you or I?
first opponent, oh man . . . you or I?
answer me, friend . . . answer me, friend"
the small calf fell kneeling by his feet asking for mercy
however, he did not attempt to understand
he released a volley of thrusts of his bloody knife
the volley targetted its pearly teeth
at its good eyes
at its fragile stomach

You Are the Only Witness

It howls, limps . . . it howls, limps
kids run after it with stones and laughs
from one place to another
from time to time
it stops breathless
it extends its red tongue to lick hot blood from its wounded leg
whenever it stops for a moment
stones and laughs are thrown again at it
it howls, howls, and limps, limps
when will you stop, you kids, when will you stop?
It suddenly turned, its eyes shot sparks, tears and sadness
it sadly butted into one of them
kids returned to their mothers complaining about the lame cub
fears sparked in their small eyes
without warning
bullets showered on the 'crazy cub'
it fell
One moment before it gave up its ghost
it raised its weepy eyes
great god, you are the only witness
only you know what happened

(Translation: Al Bayader, September 1983).

WINDOW ON THE ARAB PRESS

The on, off, on again Arafat visit to Jordan was the major concern of the local Palestinian newspapers this week. The papers enthusiastically followed the latest news in the Lebanese civil war, especially the victory of the national forces and the withdrawal of the US Marines.

The continued closure of Najah University and the solving of the problem of Bir Zeit was also given front page coverage.

Only One Way - Out

The serious thing in Shultz's recent statement is not that he blames Israel for the failure of the American aggressive plan in Lebanon. It is in his attempt to encourage Israel's leaders to carry out widespread military operations against Syria. Why isn't he expecting a "Syrian victory in Lebanon?" He said, "because Israel will balance this Syrian direction." He added, very clearly, saying, "If there were a confrontation between Israel and Syria, it would not be difficult for me to decide with whom I would stand."

What adds to these dangers is what Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said on the same day; he is willing to be stubborn and adventure, where Washington is afraid in order not to threaten world peace.

The Israeli minister has reached such a point of war extremism that he saw this American fear for world peace as a sign of Western impotence.

Arens is not the first Israeli official who has showed such disregard for world peace. Golda Meir preceded him when she was prime minister. However, Arens's disregard reminds us, in light of the American collapse in Lebanon, of a similar suicidal and fatal disregard by the Saigon government (South Vietnam) at that time. The Israeli leaders should not keep out of their minds that Reagan and Shultz are ready to involve them in a similar deadly adventure in order to keep their seats.

The Shamir and Arens government is looking for 'excuses' it assumes will 'permit' it to stay in Lebanon and carry out new military adventures there. This way it tries to forget that its invasion of Lebanon, from the beginning, was not justified.

The ludicrous thing is the two excuses Arens and his government are hiding behind:

The first justification is that the Palestinian 'terrorists' have returned to Beirut and the south. All the Lebanese nationalists have reiterated that the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is limited to civilian activities (that is, awaiting their return home) and that the Lebanese nationalists are the only ones resisting the Israeli occupation everywhere in Lebanon. This excuse, which never was good enough, has lost credibility among the Israeli and international public opinion. Isn't that so, Sharon and Eitan? Otherwise, what have you 'achieved' in Lebanon in return for the heavy price your people have, and still are, paying?

The second justification, pronounced by Arens himself, is that his army will never leave south Lebanon "as long as Lebanon does not have a government capable of giving any real guarantees to prevent any terrorist activities against settlements in the north from reappearing." It is obvious such a "capable government" will not come about, in Shamir and Arens' opinion, not in Lebanon or any other Arab country, unless it ties itself, at least in agreement, with Israel through the likes of Camp David. Isn't it our right to ask professor Arens: "Don't you remember that a similar security phenomenon appeared in Europe before the Second World War?"

The involvement of the Israel-US aggression in Lebanon is very deep. Therefore it is better for the Israelis to follow the suit of their American friends and leave.

If, as we see, it will be difficult for the Shamir and Arens government to leave Lebanon, then it has no choice but to leave office. It has brought this on itself. It should not be allowed to inflict more on its people and the peoples of this region than it has already done.

AL ITTIHAD
February 21

Start Talks

Successive American administrations intensified, one after the other, their antagonism to the Palestinian people, making it look more like a 'traditional animosity.'

The US did not hesitate, through its former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to promise Israel that it would not recognise or talk to the PLO. This promise was included in one of the documents of the Sinai accords signed between Egypt and Israel, under US auspices, in 1975.

Today, nine years later, news agencies are reporting that official talks were held between the current American administration and the PLO, prior to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982. This report was denied by a Palestinian source.

However, if we take into consideration that the US did not give up its demand that the PLO recognise Israel's right to exist and UN Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East — as a US condition for a Washington recognition of the PLO and for starting talks with it — and if we take into consideration also the recent statements by Robert McFarlane, US national security adviser, regarding developments in the Palestinian issue, we can conclude that the US may have started to think about changing its policy towards the Palestinian cause, pressured by the new developments in this region.

Yet, we still ask the US — if it is really concerned about changes in the Palestinian issue — to stop putting conditions on the PLO and to start open and frank talks with it, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and therefore it should be included in any negotiations on this issue. Such an approach would only straighten matters out.

AL FAJR
February 22

Fraternal Leaderships

For a long time, specifically since the Palestinian departure from Tripoli, news reports have spoken about a meeting nearing between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships to discuss and study, hoping they can meet on common ground from where both can launch their efforts to save the occupied Arab lands and its people before this becomes impossible.

In preparation for this meeting, contacts were made among senior officials on both sides. All of these confirmed the necessity of maintaining the talks and keeping them alive.

Naturally, there will be difficulties and disagreements in opinion. This should never lead to a cutback in the contacts but should serve as an incentive to exert more effort to overcome these difficulties and contain the disagreements that may arise.

The Jordanian and Palestinian leaderships bear heavy responsibilities in these crucial moments. The least these responsibilities demand is that both meet to arrive at a common strategy, as long as their goal is one.

In light of the recent developments in this region, more results are being expected from the meeting of the fraternal leadership. These developments add to our conviction that the Palestinian-Jordanian journey is vital and necessary. It should never stop regardless of the obstacles and difficulties.

AL QUDS
February 23

The Lebanese Lesson

Those who are plotting the surrender plans and those who want to impose these plans on our people by force are building their conclusions on the external factors in this region — the presence of a majority of pro-imperialist Arab right and the absence of solidarity among the anti-imperialist Arab camp.

Based on their wrong assumption that this situation may continue, they started to spread ideas that these plans may soon be implemented.

In spite of the clarity of the anti-Arab and anti-Palestinian approach of the US imperialists, those who follow them continue to give excuses for this American position. They believe that as long as they get closer to the White House and give up the freedom and sovereignty of their nations for the sake of US hegemony, they will guarantee American protection for their regimes and selfish interests. For this reason Americans have military bases in Arab countries, besides the visible and obscure services the enemies of the Arabs receive. There was also the breakaway from the Fez Summit resolutions in favour of the Reagan plan and the return of the Camp David regime to the Islamic Conference, and maybe its return to the Arab League.

However, events reveal the shortsightedness of the imperialists and their followers. Neither the surrender agreement nor the Sixth Fleet and the Arab agents were able to impose Gemayel as a master of Lebanon. On the contrary, the Lebanese nationalists, aligned with Syria and the Palestinian movement and backed by the Soviet Union and Arab and international revolutionary powers, have proven that only what is right in this region, as everywhere, will come about.

There is no doubt this was in McFarlane's mind when he announced that the US will intervene militarily on behalf of King Hussein if he met opposition after he joins what he called the 'peace talks.'

Gemayel hears such statements every hour. Yet, in spite of all the American threats and attacks on the Lebanese people, the Gemayel regime is on the verge of collapse. And with it, the myth that Washington alone can do whatever it wants is collapsing.

The experience in Lebanon has proven that serving the cause of national liberation and democracy does not come by working through surrender plans and dependence on the US but by relying on the masses and their struggle and through solidarity with all the popular powers.

AL TALIA
February 23

Defined Relationship

Some Arab and Western media circles are shedding light in a distinctive manner on the expected visit by Yasir Arafat to Jordan.

Some of these circles are trying to make it appear that there is one last opportunity for reaching a political solution through Jordan; meaning that the PLO has to make certain concessions. But the Palestinian leadership has made it clear in the last several weeks that it does not see any chance for any diplomatic moves to find a solution.

Palestinian officials have also made it clear that the Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue is based on decisions made at the Algiers session of the Palestine National Council last year. That is, the PLO should be considered as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the only party qualified to talk on behalf of this people at any international forum.

Therefore, the Fez decisions, which confirmed the role of the PLO and the necessity of the creation of an independent Palestinian state, should be the basis on which the Palestinian-Jordanian talks are decided, which will also discuss the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and coordinate any activities through the decisions of the PNC and the Fez Summit. These decisions define the PLO's relationship to all the Arab countries.

AL SHA'AB
February 24

Play Passes Censor After 3 Years

Awawdeh: *Lines from daily life*

The three-year banning of a Palestinian play was lifted February 7 but only after Israeli censors made political cuts in the script.

The play, *Mushahed* (Eyewitness), by Rateb Awawdeh of Kufr Kanna, was banned in late 1980 after being performed only three times in Arab villages and in Tel Aviv. The reason given by the Israeli interior ministry at the time was 'lack of a permit.' Awawdeh, who also acts in the play, sent the text to the Israeli film and play censors, who totally rejected it five months later. The head of the censorship board, a division of the Israeli interior ministry, claimed that the play deals with the subject of land expropriation in an "extremist fashion, with clear incitement against the state of Israel." The censor also said that the play calls upon the Arab masses "to demonstrate and not to keep quite about expropriations."

Awawdeh was unsuccessful on his own in convincing the censor to allow the play and so applied to the Israeli High Court to intervene. The court, however, refused to decide on the case and returned it to the censorship board, asking them to work out a compromise. On February 7 the Israeli censor finally approved the play, cutting out seven lines of dialogue of a Palestinian farmer refusing to accept compensation money for his land.

Rateb Awawdeh talked to *Al Fajr* about the play and the fight to show it: "The play talks about a people's right to live on their own land and their attempts to deal with the problem of land expropriation." Awawdeh rejects the Israeli censors' claim of incitement: "We suffer national discrimination and my play is an attempt to join my people's scream against the stealing of our land." As for the lines cut from the play, the Galilean artist says that this kind of dialogue takes place every day between Palestinian landowners and Israeli officials: "I did not invent these lines from my head. It seems that the censor does not know how our land is taken away."

Since the play was banned in 1980 Awawdeh has attempted to put on a Hebrew version of the play but all Israeli theaters rejected it. Now that it is partially allowed, he plans to show it in Jerusalem and other Palestinian villags inside the 'green line.' A different permit is needed to show the play in the military governed areas of the occupied territories, where Israeli military authorities rarely permit plays to be shon. (Translation: Al Fajr, February 24, 1984).

Town Arrest on Social Worker Eased

The Ramallah military objections committee eased a six-month town arrest order February 21 levied on Ahmad Jabr, 30, a social worker at the Bir Zeit University literary centre.

Jabr, a former member of the student council at Bethlehem University, had been given a second consecutive town arrest order in his village of Turmus Aya, 20 kilometres north of Ramallah, November 9. Since that date he filed a complaint to the military objections committee in which he requested that the town arrest order be eased to enable him to attend his work at Bir Zeit University. After hearing the lawyer's petitions, the committee permitted Jabr to go to Bir Zeit only during office work hours, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. On Sundays and Fridays Jabr must remain in his village.

His wife, Aisheh Jabr, a nurse at Makassed Hospital, said there was no reason for the imposition of the town arrest order on her husband. "No concrete reason has ever been mentioned," Aisheh said. "Perhaps they are punishing him for being an activist on the student council two years ago," she speculated.

Teenager Fined for Violating Curfew

A teenaged girl from Dheisheh camp was fined IS3000 February 22 on charges of violating a curfew put on the Bethlehem area refugee camp last November 13. Ghada Abd al-Jawwad, 17, denied the charge and Ussama Odeh, lawyer for the defence, told *Al Fajr* that the testimony of the prosecution's only witness, an Israeli soldier, was contradictory. Nevertheless, the military court judge at first sentenced Ghada to a prison term but the defence told the court that it was illegal to levy such a sentence on a minor. The judge agreed and sentenced the 17-year-old girl to a IS3000 fine.

Dheisheh camp was put under curfew for a three-week period last November to punish residents for protesting against the refugee rehabilation plan foisted by Israeli minister without portfolio Mordechai Ben Porat. A trial of ten more Dheisheh youths is scheduled for the end of February. The youths are charged with demonstrating and disturbing public order.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RAMALLAH — *Clowns*, a play presented by Friends Girls School. Adults IS350; Students IS150. Special price for groups over 15. For tickets and information call Gerri, at 952548. Performances: Saturday, March 3, 7 pm. Sunday March 4, 2:30 pm. (English)

JERUSALEM — Islamic Woman's Society plans to give courses in Hebrew, typing and sewing. For more information contact Na'ela Sabri.

JERUSALEM — Registration begins immediately for courses in French at the YWCA. Classes will be held from March through May. Call 282-593 for more information.

JERUSALEM — Magistrates Court, March 1, 8:30 am, trial resumes of 29 participants in the November 28, 1981 demonstration in Ramallah, the first attended by Israelis and teargassed by Israeli forces.

TEL AVIV — Sh'Khunat Hatiqwa, every Wednesday 9:30 pm Lama Lo Restaurant, 58 Ha-Haganah Str. Muni Yakim from Black Panthers leads discussions on various topics relating to Oriental Jews. (Hebrew)

CALENDER OF EVENTS

WHAT'S MISSING? WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Visitors and locals buy *Al Fajr* Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly for news of the occupied territories. Many important and enjoyable events pass by unnoticed simply because there are no avenues of advertisement available to announce them. *Al Fajr* will change this by offering FREE advertisement space to groups, institutions and individuals who want to let people know what's happening.

Ads must be no more than 25 words in length and be at *Al Fajr* English offices no later than Friday each week to be published the following Wednesday. They may be submitted in person at our 2 Hatem Ta'ee Street office or by phoning 281035. Call or stop by today and let us know what you are planning.

British Consul Visits WB Mayors

British Consul General Donald Hamley visited two West Bank mayors, Wahid Hamdallah of Anabta and Hilmi Hanoun of Tulkarm, February 21 and raised the topic of reciprocal recognition between the PLO and Israel.

Hamley told *Al Fajr*: "I regularly visit leading West Bank mayors to hear their views about the Arab-Israeli conflict. It is a kind of demonstration to visit Palestinian mayors from time to time, especially after Hamdallah has been released from jail."

Hamley, who insisted that nothing special prempted him to visit the mayors, said of his visit, "There are political points of agreement and dispute between us." Hamley said that he conveyed his government's attitude that the PLO is an important representative of the Palestinian people but not the sole legitimate representative. He supports the idea that Israel and the PLO should exchange mutual recognition.

Mayor Hamdallah said he was pleased by the regular visits made by the British and other European consuls. But he refused the suggestion that the PLO should recognise Israel. "What borders of Israel should the PLO recognise?" Hamdallah asked. "The borders of 1948, of 1967, of 1982?

"As a Palestinian I do not believe in this," he continued, "although it might be used by some Palestinians as a tactic under the pretext of pulling the carpet from under Israel," Hamdallah explained. However, the practices of the Israeli authorities indicate fully that Israel will never recognise the PLO," said the Anabta mayor, who was dismissed from his job in spring 1982 and jailed for three weeks last month.

CORRECTIONS:

BEER SABE'A, LAQIYA, HURA — Association for Support and Defence of Beduin rights in Israel, Saturday March 17, all day — painting gardening, in Beduin cemetery, and memorial, in support of Beduin rights. Information; Nuri el-'Ugbi 11, Hahashmonaim Str. Lydda, Telephone: (054) 29041 (Arabic, Hebrew)

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv branch of Committee in Solidarity with BZU, Tuesday, March 13, 6.30 pm. For location, ask members. (Hebrew)

Ibrahim Abu Rosa, in Austria, extends condolences to the family of

Khalil Mousa Budeiri

continued from page 2

Sixth Fleet

through Syria, a renunciation of the demand for Amin Gemayel's resignation in exchange for a fake abrogation of the May 17 accords seems to have been shattered by the *New Jersey* shells. A few days ago, an European commentator of Lebanese affairs wrote: "If the Lebanese were to be left to themselves, the Lebanese question would be solved within a matter of minutes. It is doubtless that today the national forces in Lebanon are not only the expression of the majority of the people but they are also militarily victorious. With west Beirut liberated, the army split and in large part passed over to the resistance, the airport and the very potent American base solidly in the hands of Amal, and the mountain areas as solidly in the hands of the PSP, the national forces can dictate their conditions. But the Maronites, who verbally cry out for 'the withdrawal of foreign forces,' in reality lean exclusively on foreign powers — the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, even Syria — to stay on their feet and continue to hold economic and political power in their hands.

"As far as Syria is concerned, it is only interested in the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord. Now Amin Gemayel is ready to cede on this point, but he is asking for *bakshish*, something which in Lebanon is paid to persons in power more than to waiters in restaurants. The *bakshish* Amin Gemayel is asking for consists of being permitted to stay in power." The fatal question is after yesterday's US show of brutality, will Syria accept to pay Amin his *bakshish?*

Following a week of inflamed — but obviously staged — Phalangist statements, according to which his father's party and his brother-in-law's militia would in no case go along with the abrogation of the accord yesterday, in a strange coincidence with the American naval shellings, the same party and militias voted to "support the president's decision to abrogate the accord, on the basis of the fact that Amin Gemayel possesses secret elements in this regard which cannot be made public." In this tricky formulation may lie the answer — one way or another — to this questions: an answer, needless to say, that will not determine the final outcome of the Lebanese struggle for liberation, but that may contribute to prolong it and to intensify the dangers connected with a continued American presence throughout the region and beyond.

THIS WEEK'S CENSORSHIP

Following is a breakdown of censorship cuts for issue 200, February 29, 1984:

Number of original articles submitted to censor.....22
Number of articles totally censored out.....3
Number of articles mutilated beyond use.....1
Number of articles passed.....18

WEEKLY REVIEW

February 19, 1984

WOMEN WORK FOR HEALTH

DHEISHEH — The Women's Committee for Social Work concluded two days of volunteer medical work at Dheisheh refugee camp.

February 20, 1984

ARMY SHOOTS GAZA YOUTH

GAZA — A 17-year-old Gaza youth, Mahmoud Nayef Maadi, was injured in the leg when Israeli soldiers fired at him. The youth was taken to hospital. An investigation is reportedly underway into the unprovoked shooting.

NABLUS YOUTHS JAILED FOR MOLOTOV

NABLUS — The military court in Nablus sentenced Imad Saifi, from Nablus, to a three-and-a-half-year jail term on charges of throwing a firebomb at an Israeli border patrol in the city. Lawyer Nidal Taha defended him.

STUDENTS STRIKE IN SOLIDARITY

RAMALLAH — Students of the Modern Community College held a sit-in on campus in support of other students of two-year institutions protesting the comprehensive exams.

The students condemned recent measures by UNRWA to close down three of its institutes in reaction to a strike by their students.

UNIONISED STONE—CUTTERS HARASSED

QABATIYA — Stone-cutters at the village of Qabatiya received notices from the Israeli military that the workers who are members in the Union of Workers of Stone-Cutters should be fired or their licenses will be withdrawn.

TEACHER JAILED

RAMALLAH — A woman teacher from Samu', near Hebron, received a one-year jail term and another two-year suspended sentence on security charges.

The teacher, Husniah Abu Salameen, was arrested seven months ago. She teaches at Samu' Girls Secondary School.

VILLAGERS COMPLAIN OF SETTLERS

BANI HASSAN — Villagers from Bani Hassan, near Tulkarm, complained to the military of settler harassment and threats against Faris Jaber Shakieh, Ibrahim Ali Meqbel and Ahmad Mahmoud Qassem to leave their lands so that settlers can take over.

The three villagers have been regularly harassed by settlers in spite of a court order preventing the settlers from entering their land.

3 YEARS FOR MEMBERSHIP

ARAH — The military court in Lydda sentenced Qassem Ibrahim Salameh, from Arah, to a three-year jail term and another three-year suspended sentence on charges of membership in a political organisation and contacting the PLO.

12 YEARS FOR DISARMING SETTLER

HEBRON — Three Hebron youths, Mustafa Dmeiri, A'aid Jamjoum and Muhomad Takrouri, were sentenced by a military court in Hebron. Dmeiri received twelve years and the others received seven and a half years each, after they were convicted of attacking a settler in Hebron and taking his gun away.

TAX THIEVES

NABLUS — An Arab company in Nablus received a court order asking Israeli tax officials to explain within 15 days why the tax department failed to return the money it took from the company.

The company, Abd al-Kareem Taher and Sons, which sells construction material, has charged that millions of shekels were collected illegally from it by the tax department.

February 21, 1984

EXPLOSIONS IN GAZA

TEL AVIV — Two explosive devices were thrown at targets in Gaza. One was thrown at an Israeli army vehicle and the other at a car parked in the city.

Israel Radio said the army combed the area in search of the attackers. It also said several youths from Jabaliya refugee camp were recently rounded up for interrogation.

FARA'A PRISONER TORTURED

JERUSALEM — An employee in the Nablus electric company, Khalid Ghazal, is reportedly suffering from torture he was subjected to in Fara'a jail where he has been detained for 16 days. Another Nablus resident, Hassan Dahdouh, 20, was arrested and put in solitary confinement for several days following demonstrations in the city after the shooting death of Nablus youth Nasser Sereisi January 28.

ISRAEL SWITCHES

TEL AVIV — The Israeli government announced that it is not against the creation of a Jordanian rapid deployment force, equipped, financed and trained by the US, Israeli Radio said, quoting diplomatic sources in Washington.

February 22, 1984

TEACHERS VACATION

RAMALLAH — UNRWA gave teachers at the three higher institutions it closed last week an extended vacation. Teachers at the Teacher's College in Ramallah are on vacation until March 11, at Tireh until February 28 and at Kalandia until March 4. Meanwhile, student councils of these three institutions contacted the Council for Higher Education in the West Bank in an attempt to reopen the schools.

Kalandia students gather for a sit-in before the UNRWA closure of their school/AO photo

YOUTH JAILED

NABLUS — The Nablus military court sentenced Imad Hindieh to a three-and-a-half-year jail term on security charges.

UNIONIST BANNED FROM GAZA

GAZA — Gaza's military governor issued an order banning Ibrahim Dakkak, head of the Professional Unions in the West Bank, from entering the Gaza Strip for six months. Dakkak is also barred from the West Bank.

FINED FOR LEAVING CAMP

DHEISHEH CAMP — The military court in Ramallah fined Ghada Abd al-Fatah Abd al-Jawad, 17, from Dheisheh camp, IS3000 for violating a curfew imposed on the camp earlier.

JORDAN TO PAY MORE SALARIES

NABLUS — Informed sources said Jordan will pay salaries of West Bank teachers forced into early retirement by the Israeli military government. The payment will be made in March, retroactive to the time of their forced retirement.

PATROL DESTROYS LAND

GAZA — An Israeli patrol destroyed five dunums of cultivated land owned by Eid Abu Hashish by driving over the land and cutting the trees on the pretext the land is government-owned.

THREE SAKHNIN YOUTHS RELEASED

GALILEE — Three Sakhnin youths were released after serving two-thirds of their prison sentences for charges of demonstration on Land Day and the anniversary of the Sabra and Shatila massacres. The three youths had been sentenced to four-month jail terms. Their fine, IS25,000, was also reduced to IS15000, after their lawyer appealed the case.

February 23, 1984

LAND OFFICIAL DISMISSED

NABLUS — The Israeli officer in charge of land registration fired the assistant director of the land registration department in Nablus, Walid Said Athiera, effective the first of next month.

MORE LAND RETURNED

RAMALLAH — The military objections committee in Ramallah ruled that Mahmoud Ahmad Abed, Ziad Yousef Ali and Taleb Awad Yousef, all from Arroura village, near Ramallah, can keep their land in the village. The three plaintiffs were complaining against an Israeli military order to confiscate their land under the pretext it is government land.

CASE DISMISSED

HAIFA — The government's attorney general decided not to prosecute writer Muhammed Ali Taha, charged with sympathising with an illegal organisation and sedition because of a book of short stories he wrote called *A Rose to Hafidha's Eyes*. The reversal was made following strong opposition to the decision to prosecute Taha and confiscate his book.

NEW PRISON IN NABLUS

TEL AVIV — The Israeli military is planning to build a new prison in Nablus to house 1000 detainees. The new prison is expected to cost US$6 million.

DHEISHEH CAMP UNDER LIGHTS

DHEISHEH — Street lights are to be erected on the main Jerusalem-Hebron road, particularly the area in front of Dheisheh refugee camp. That area is the site of constant rock-throwing at passing Israeli vehicles.

VILLAGERS WIN BACK LAND

HEBRON — Landowners at the village of Tafouh won back their 217 dunums in court. The land was found to be illegally sold to an Israeli company. The owners filed a suit on September 29, 1982.

ATTEMPTED ARSON

AL—KHADR — An arson attempt was made on a car owned by Muhammad Isma'il Ayesh, member of the Bethlehem district Muslim *waqf* and resident of al-Khadr village, near Bethlehem.

EFFORTS TO STOP MEASURE AGAINST HOSPITAL CONTINUE

Director Dr. Ahmad Muhtadi of the Hospice Hospital

Over 140 nurses from the West Bank and Gaza Strip attended a two-day forum at the Arab Nursing College February 23 and 24 on digestive tract diseases and the psychological and social aspects of patient care. Azzam Nimr, a teacher at the nursing college, told *Al Fajr* that the forum was arranged entirely by local experts in the field.

in Jerusalem met with three Knesset members, Muhammed Watad, Hamad Khalaileh and former Israeli Minister of Health Victor Shemtov, to discuss with them the Israeli measure to close down the surgery department of the Hospice. The three MKs visited the hospital and expressed their opinion that the Israeli health department should rescind its decision.

UNION HOLDS EVENTS

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem Union of Shoemakers held a cultural and sport event for handicapped people at Princess Basmah Hospital in Jerusalem. The event included a karate performance and songs.

February 24, 1984

FOR FRANCE

NABLUS — The Association of Friends of Najah University applied to the Israeli military for permission to hold a French Day at the association's headquarters under the auspices of the French Counsul General. French cultural and industrial displays will be presented at the celebration.

WATER SHORTAGE

HEBRON — Shortages in drinking water face many areas in the Hebron district due to the lack of rain this winter. Many Beduin are moving north with their herds.

TAXES DOUBLE IN GAZA

GAZA — The Israeli-run Gaza municipality increased city property tax by 100 percent.

AUTHORISED VIGILANTES

TEL AVIV — Jewish settlers in the Jordan valley formed a special police force whose mission is to prevent Arab agricultural products from being sold in Israeli markets. This force will have the authority to stop, search and confiscate agricultural products going to the Israeli markets.

February 25, 1984

POLICEMAN ATTACKED

HEBRON — Two unidentified men stabbed a policeman in Arroub camp, near Hebron, injuring him slightly. The two men called on the policeman for help and then stabbed him.

FIRE

JERUSALEM — Fire broke out at a car paint garage in the industrial area in Jerusalem. The fire gutted the building, owed by Lutfi Abu Assab, and three cars inside. Damage was estimated at JD4000. The cause for the fire is not known yet.

BULLDOZER ATTACKED

TEL AVIV — Israel Radio said four firebombs were thrown near at an Israeli bulldozer which was opening a road to Ramot Kidron settlement, in the Bethlehem district. The bombs were thrown at a cottage used by a guard on the site were the road equipment was placed.

February 26, 1984

9 YOUTHS JAILED

TEL AVIV — The Ramallah military court sentenced nine youths from Jalazon refugee camp to jail terms ranging between 70 days and three years on charges of organisation and planning stoning operations against Israeli military vehicles.

THEY WON'T GO

TEL AVIV — Two Israeli reservists received a 30-day jail term after they refused to serve in Lebanon. So far 113 soldiers have refused to serve in Lebanon.

PLAY DIRECTOR QUESTIONED

SHAFA AMR — Stage director Riyad Khatib was summoned by the Acre police and questioned about the play *Vacation* which he directed. The police accused Khatib of holding the play without permission from the censors. However the theatre group staging the performance said it obtained permission from the censor department last January 3.

LANDOWNER LABELED 'FORGER'

JERUSALEM — A resident of Jinsafout, Said Abd al-Rahman Bahloul, was arrested and charged with forging documents. Bahloul has long been targeted by the military government which wants to confiscate his land to expand Emmanuel settlement.

NO EXIT FOR 11 MONTHS

JERUSALEM — New residency procedures bar any individual who receives family reunion permission in the West Bank from leaving for 11 months. Any child born outside the West Bank cannot be brought in without a prior permit.

STRIKING STUDENTS WARNED

NABLUS — Students at Khadouri Institute in Tulkarm were warned by the administration against continuing their strike to protest the comprehensive exam.

HAMDALLAH TOWN ARREST RENEWED

TEL AVIV — The town arrest order imposed on Anabta's elected mayor, Wahid Hamdallah, was renewed for six more months. Hamdallah was arrested for three weeks in January on false charges and then released.

NEW INDUSTRY IN RAMALLAH

RAMALLAH — A soft drink factory will be built in Ramallah by the United Company for Trade and Investment Ltd. which already obtained a license to build. The factory will be the first of its kind in the West Bank.

The factory, with a working capital of JD600,000, is already under construction in the industrial area of the city. It is expected to start production in the summer.

SEVEN BODIES OF PALESTINIANS FOUND IN CAVE

BEIRUT — Reports from south Lebanon said seven bodies of Palestinians were discovered in a cave southeast of Sidon in south Lebanon. The seven bodies were recognised as that of refugees from Ain al-Hilweh camp, east of Sidon, who have been missing for several weeks. The appasent massacre is part of the recent wave of attacks on Palestinians in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon.

PALESTINIAN PRISONER JOINS STRIKE IN ENGLAND

LONDON — Palestinian woman political prisoner Khuloud Mughrabi, at Durham prison, Scotland, has joined a hunger strike at the jail in protest against bad prison conditions. Twenty-three other prisoners are taking part in the strike.

100 Trees Less

Vandals cut down 100 olive trees in Qataneh village February 20. The vandals, who villagers suspect were settlers, used large saws to cut the centruries-old trees.

Ayoub Mohammed, 40, a native of the Ramallah district village, told *Al Fajr* that the Ma'aleh Khamisha settlement may have been behind the destruction. One year ago settlers destroyed olive trees in nearby Iraq Rakhmeh and She'eb villages.

Ayoub Mohammad said 200 olive tree were destroyed, including 14 trees belonging to him, last year in a still unsolved crime.

'Civil Administration' Dissolution Imminent

The socialist-Zionist Mapam party organ *Al Hamishmar* reported February 16 that the Israeli defence minister is considering dissolving the 'civil administration' branch of the military governorate.

The Israeli government Arabic language news organ *Al Anba'* speculated that Israeli Minister of Defence Moshe Arens is hesitant to take such a step because of the political implications. The move would imply the failure of the 'civil administration' to function, it said.

The Mapam paper stated that the West Bank military command, which is now trying to nominate a successor to the outgoing 'civil administration' head Sholomo Elia, is planning to choose someone who can carry out military tasks.

Al Hamishmar further noted that there are 26 candidates for the post of 'civil administrator,' which would be incorporated with the military governorate.

The 'civil administration' was established in 1981 to implement an Israeli intepretation of the Camp David accords.

Wavell Camp Heavily Hit

UNRWA announced that the two Israeli air raids on January 4 in the Ba'albek area of Lebanon caused many civilian casualties including 13 Palestinian refugees killed and 125 wounded in Wavell camp.

The raids destroyed 40 refugee homes and damaged 50 others. A mosque in the camp was destroyed and several UNRWA installations were damaged including the school, a distribution centre, a sewing centre, the office of the camp services officer and the roof of a multi-storey building housing refugees. The electrical and water supply to half the camp was cut.

An emergency issue of household supplies and food began immediately after the raids and an engineer was sent from Beirut to oversee clearing of debris and repair of the electrical and water supply network.

UNRWA Mandate Renewed

The United Nations General Assembly voted to extend UNRWA's mandate from June 30, 1984 to June 30, 1987. Other resolutions called for: effective measures to guarantee the safety and security of Palestinian refugees; provision of grants and scholarships for university and vocational training; continuation of assistance to persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities; and continuation of the work of the Working Group on the Financing of UNRWA.

Many Israelis remain complacent about the practices of their own government toward Palestinians until they are personally threatened. When four Palestinian students at Beer Sheba University were arrested, their rooms raided and school books confiscated, some members of the Israeli community were roused to protest. Yosef Gilat writes in *Al Hamishmar* (February 17, 1984) on "Marx As a Security Risk." A letter to the editor published in *HaAretz* takes up the subject of the violation of academic and civil freedoms of another student, Maysara Sayyed.

No Academic Freedom for Campus Activists

The violation of the academic freedom of Arab students at Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheba, has aroused the wrath of professors, lecturers and students who expressed their protest by sending petitions to the defence minister.

About three weeks ago economics professor Uri Regev sent a letter of protest to Defence Minister Moshe Arens concerning the town arrest order imposed on his research assistant, 'Asi Atrash. Several days ago a group of 30 lecturers sent a petition to the defence minister expressing their wonder "about what is taking place within the walls of the university." The issue is about four Arab students who study at Ben Gurion University who were harassed by the Israeli security services, including travel restrictions and town arrest orders that were imposed on two of them by the Northern District Commander Uri Orr. The professors also wonder about the confiscation of books that are included in the bibliography demanded of them at the university.

On November 30, 1983 four students were arrested, two of them masters candidates who serve as graduate assistants in the economics department, an undergraduate student of history and a nursing student. Following the searches that took place in the students' rooms, the security services confiscated books which were found by Beer Sheba Magistrate Judge Shmuel Muentzer as harmless. Some of the confiscated books are included in the bibliographic lists for courses in which the students participate. Northern District Commander Uri Orr issued an order against one of the students that confines him to his village Daburiyeh, near Afula. A second student was issued a restriction order that prohibited him to pass the 'green line' borders. In their appeal to the defence minister, the lecturers were seeking answers to the following questions:

1. "If any offence against the state laws was committed by the above-mentioned students, why weren't they brought to court? If there was no offence committed, why was a restriction order issued against one of them, an assistant tutor in the economics department, that prohibits him from continuing his studies and work at the university? Isn't there inherent in this order far-reaching damage to the rights that every citizen holds in a proper, democratic state?

2. Every student has the right and even the duty to read books that are required in their courses. Why, therefore, were study books confiscated and why were other books of the students confiscated which the magistrate judge, as mentioned, found harmless? Shouldn't the books be returned to their owners? It seems to us that the policy that was taken needs immediate explanation."

No Justification for the Town Arrest Order

Dr. 'Adi Parush, a jurist and lecturer in the faculty of philosophy at Ben Gurion University, wonders about the town arrest order that was issued by the Northern District General against student Atrash and says: "If Atrash trespassed the law he should be brought to court. If he didn't trespass the law, is there any justification for the restriction order?

"From a legal point of view," continues Dr. Parush, "it is not a matter of an administrative detention and the Emergency Regulations that were in use under the British Mandate. Already in 1951 the Knesset accepted a resolution condemning those regulations as contradicting the basis of a democratic state.

In 1979 the Knesset abolished, on the request of then Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir, two regulations: 111 and 112B of the Emergency Regulations. Regulation 111 granted a military commander unlimited authority according to which he could issue an administrative order. According to the Israeli regulation from 1979, only the minister of defence is entitled to issue an administrative detention order and with the approval of the head of the District Court.

"Today there are no administrative detentions in all the Israeli-dominated areas," states Dr. Parush, "as a result of the regulation that makes it difficult to issue such orders." On the other hand, travel restriction orders are in unlimited use, as every military commander may issue them according to his discretion and without juridical supervision. This is quite a widespread custom. The only way to abolish a travel restriction order is by an appeal to the High Court of Justice and, indeed, there have been appeals to the HCJ.

Ya'ari, Harkabi and Marx

Mahmud Aghbariya, 23, from Um al-Fahm, a third year student of history and Hebrew language, speaks fluent Hebrew. "On the eve of November 30, 1983 I was absent from my room in the student dormitories and in my absence, security forces entered it, accompanied with the security officer from the university. They searched, putting the room in complete disorder, and confiscated all my books in the Arabic language, among them books that I use in my class called 'The Palestinian Movement.' The books are included on the bibliographic list. They are authored by Yehoshafat Harkabi, Yokheved Weintraub, Ehud Ya'ari, Yig'al Karmon, Shimshon Yitzhak and the like. Also they confiscated writings of Lenin, Marx and Engels. The books, which are necessary for continuing my studies, have not yet been returned to me.

"After the confiscation of the books, 'Asi Atrash, chairperson of the Arab students at the university, and Rassem Qanawath were also arrested. In the morning I was arrested in my village, Um al-Fahm. I was questioned in Beer Sheba and released." The same thing happened to student Mas'ud Ashkar. The two first detainees were kept in custody 48 hours and then released on order of Magistrate Judge Shmuel Muentzer. The judge stated that the police action was illegal. The search warrant in the hands of the police entitled them only to confiscate printed material published by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine or PLO flags. However, the material brought in front of the judge didn't include anything hostile or inciting against the state of Israel. In the judge's opinion, "The police exceeded its authority," and he instructed that the detainees be released.

Damaging Civil Rights

The release of 'Asi Atrash did not stop the Northern District Commander from issuing an order confining him to his village for a six-month period except for twice daily reporting to police in Afula. With this order, his work as research assistant for Professor Regev was stopped.

Dov Collar, a philosophy and history student, strongly objects to the affairs of detentions, travel restrictions and confiscation of books. This affair has put basic civil freedoms in the state and academic freedom at the university to a severe test. He says that administrative measures dating from the days of the British mandate should not be used. If the police or the army have no reason to bring the students to court, the town arrest order should be cancelled and the confiscated books returned. To strengthen his words, Collar uses a quotation from Ben Gurion's writings that was published in *Uniqueness and Mission*: "We should know how to respect the great deeds and the blessed creations of all peoples, but we'll not belittle or enslave ourselves, nor will we recognise any authority of a foreign spirit, idea or moral, as we shall not demand for us power over others."

Concerning the confiscated books, Collar points to the decisions of former High Court Judge Haim Cohen and Judges Etzioni and Asher that relate to the High Court appeal of Rami Levni against the Prison Services Authorities that prohibited the providing of books for his studies inside prison: "The writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao Tse Tung, not to speak of Bell or Aharon Cohen, are books that are unrelated to incitement literature. These books are studied, and should be studied, in all universities. Among them are the basic philosophies of an economic and political doctrine, according to which large and powerful peoples live." The instructions of the government's attorney general, professor Yitzhak Zamir, from December 15, 1982, No. 21927 read:

"The expression of a view that in itself is an extreme opinion and one that doesn't fit the accepted concepts of state or public security does not constitute a sufficient pretext for an administrative detention. Only in extreme cases, when following an outrageous expression of a point of view a revolt or incitement is caused and as result of this there exists a concrete danger of the use of violent means, only then is there grounds to resort to incriminating processes." It seems that this clear instruction has not been maintained in Beer Sheba. (Translation: Al Hamishmar, February 17, 1984).

The following is a letter to the editor of Israeli Hebrew daily HaAretz *published February 17, 1984.*

According to *HaAretz* (February 8), the state prosecutor informed the High Court: "An Arab student should not study in the Technion because of his activity in a nationalistic movement." It seems that the state prosecutor did not notice the scandal in his demand; it is impossible to imagine an acceptable headline such as: "A Jewish student should not study in the Technion because of his activity in a nationalistic movement." If this is so, then the restriction to Acre of the Israeli student is based on his Arab origin. So he is denied his studies and his professional training.

Let's examine the detailed claims of the state prosecutor: "He is a member in a movement that desires to annihilate the state." As far as is known, 'The Progressive National Movement,' in which that student is a member, desires the incorporation of the state of Israel and the Palestinian population into an *Eretz—Israeli* ('Palestinian') state as an optimal solution for the conflict that has divided this country for tens of years. The disagreement of the state prosecutor with the political views of that Israeli student certainly don't justify activating against him the regulations inherited from British colonial domination (Defence Emergency Regulations 1945). With the same measure of justice, the state prosecution could be authorised to state that the Likud government requests "to annihilate the state" embodied in the map of the 1949 Truce Agreement and to exchange it with "Greater Israel." And what would it claim against the Agudat Israel Party, a senior partner in the governing coalition, that refuses till this very date to recognise the ('Zionist') state of Israel and that wishes to exchange it with a *Halachaic* state?

Another claim of the state prosecutor is that the activity of the student bore a "conspiratorial character." Shocking! There is no political body that opens its meetings to the entire public. This is a basic right, if there is any meaning to the freedom of association. Indeed, even now members of the Workers' Council of Eilat were forced to expel a policeman planted in their "secret" meeting that took place on an upper floor of a Jerusalem hotel! Will the members of the Eilat Worker's Council be restricted to their town because of their wish to hold a legitimate "secret activity?"

The state prosecutor further claims that the student was suspended from his studies at Ben Gurion University because of his "active participation in disturbances at the university." In what sense do these things relate to the state prosecutor and, most serious of all, in what sense do they justify his restriction to Acre and being denied his studies at the Technion? Only the Technion management, if it would so care, could consider and decide on the matter.

The fourth and last claim of the state prosecution against the student, Maysara Sayyed, is that "he participated in the UN International Conference on the Question of Palestine . . . and in its framework he met with senior PLO activists." A few months ago the government attorney general stated in a definite judgement that Uri Avneri, Matityahu Peled, Gid'on Spiro and others who also met with "senior PLO representatives" in that same instance didn't violate the law. If so, does the claim against the student come only on the basis of his Arab origin?

All the claims made by the state prosecutor in this affair can be denied from their very root. There is no escape but to demand that the status of Maysara Sayyed as a citizen with equal rights and duties should be respected and that all the restrictions imposed on him should be immediately removed. Of course, all that is said here also relates to the tens of Israeli citizens who have been paying for their public activity with orders restricting them to their towns, and sometimes to their houses.

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